

HAROLD F. FREDSELL, M. A., PASTOR
250 EAST MAIN STREET

L. M. EATON
CLERK OF SESSION
365 EATON DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church

MAIN AND CHURCH STREETS

Northville, Michigan

AUG 10 1944
DR. MARK A. GARDNER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
312 RANDOLPH STREET

E. JANE WAGENSCHUTZ
341 BEAL STREET
TREASURER

August 9, 1944

*8/10/44
Copy sent J. J.*

Rev. J. Earl Jackman,
Secretary, Work in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 5th Ave. N. Y. N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

We were very happy to receive your letter sent to us from Chicago. Being near by we hoped you could stop off at Detroit and visit with us. Mrs. Fredsell would enjoy meeting you and I hope if you have the opportunity you will drop ^{an} for a visit.

Your statement concerning Ed. Knudson and that my references meet with your approval definitely clear the way for our ministry at Skagway. We have talked with two of the leading Elders here and we are having a meeting of the two Boards on Thursday evening. Our folks at the Church feel that Alaska being an area of great need and that if we can be used of God we should by all means heed this call to service. Will you therefore proceed with the necessary steps for our appointment to the Skagway Church.

I have a fine young Christian layman who I would like to commend to you and who is interested in working under our Board in Alaska. He is John W. Blackburn, the Superintendent of our Northville Sunday School and a Trustee of the Church. Mr. Blackburn is a graduate of the University of Michigan, a man of ability, good judgment with a pleasant personality. At present he is a manager of a department store but I think he could be helpful in our work. He is very skillful with tools and is interested in teaching boys and girls. An excellent woodworker I am wondering if we could use him at the Sheldon Jackson School or at Haines House. Mrs. Blackburn his wife, is a consecrated and capable young Christian woman. They are both in their early thirties with a lovely family of three small girls. Alaska has a great appeal for them and perhaps you know of an area where they could be of use to the Kingdom. If you cannot use Mr. Blackburn would you permit me to write to Mr. Rasmussen of the Bank of Alaska asking about openings for young men who desire to work there? Have you incidentally heard from Elder Rasmussen concerning any changes in Skagway? We are very close to the Blackburns and if they could locate in Skagway I know they would be helpful to the Church and the community.

This is an unusual request but I hope you will understand the spirit of helpfulness in which it is offered. From your experience in visiting Alaska we would appreciate any helpful suggestions as to what we should bring with us. We would incidentally like to know the cost of the passage on the boat from Seattle to Skagway. Mr. Rotenberry's letter would be useful to us if your secretary would kindly make us a copy of it. Mrs. Fredsell and myself are constantly asking God's guidance in the change we are now making. Thank you for your good counsel.

Cordially

Harold Fredsell

AUG 10 1944

The First Presbyterian Church

Northville, Michigan

Founded 1829



"ENTER TO WORSHIP; DEPART TO SERVE"

THE REV. HAROLD F. FREDSELL, M.A.
Pastor

WILLIAM G. WILLIAMS
Director of Choirs

MRS. G. V. HARRISON
Organist

CHARLES W. MEYERS, Sexton
221 Church Street

This Church is affiliated with:
The Detroit Council of Churches
The Michigan State Council of Churches
The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

WELCOME FRIEND: In Christ's name we welcome you to this church; to its work and worship; to its comfort and service for others. Within the Father's House let no one feel himself a stranger.

The First Presbyterian Church

Northville, Michigan

Reverend Harold Fredsell, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship

JUNE 18, 1944 AT 11 O'CLOCK

SILENT MEDITATION—(A prayer upon entering the Sanctuary)

"Almighty God, we come before Thee in the spirit of true and sincere worship. As we draw near unto Thee in this holy place, may we be delivered from all coldness of heart and wanderings of mind. In all things may we more worthily show forth Thy name in Thought, word, and deed, striving to unite all mankind in the fellowship of Faith in Thee, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen."

ORGAN DEVOTIONAL—"Andante" - - - Rhineberger

DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION

LORD'S PRAYER—Choral Amen

RESPONSIVE READING—Selection 577

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 33—"When Morning Gilds the Skies" - - Caswall

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

VOCAL TRIO—"The Green Cathedral" - - - Hahn
Helen Radak, Claire Williams, June Ling

MESSAGE TO THE JUNIOR CONGREGATION

HYMN NO. 112—"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" - - Bernard

COMMISSIONING SERVICE (page 3)

OFFERTORY SERVICE

Organ Meditation—"Dedication" - - - Franz

Congregational Response of Thanksgiving.

"All things come of Thee, O Lord,

And of Thine own have we given Thee"

Choral Anthem—"Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem" - Maunder

SERMON—"Life's 'Second Best'"

HYMN NO. 156—"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - - Bonar

BENEDICTION — Congregation Seated

CHORAL RESPONSE—"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" - Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" - Diggle

* * * * *

SERVICE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose . . . What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Romans 8:28, 31, 37.

The Young People's Sunday Evening Program is conducted by the Senior Christian Endeavorers. It is open to the youth of the community. Miss Alice Hahn will lead the discussion on the topic, "Making the Best Use of Sunday." Transportation will be arranged for those attending the Waldenwoods Conference.

Teachers and helpers of the Annual Vacation Bible School are planning to have a conference and meet with the Director, Mrs. Louise M. Miner this Sunday afternoon and evening. The suggestion is made to meet at 4 p.m. and to bring a passing dish for a light supper. Helpers are still needed to assist with the school. Kindly speak to the Pastor of your willingness. Sessions are held each day from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday for the two weeks period of June 19th to the 30th.

It is a real privilege to have these young ladies share with us a lovely trio vocal presentation. We welcome June Ling and renew our fine friendship with Helen Radak and Claire Williams. When gasoline rationing is brought to a close we hope to see them more often.

Our capable Choir Director Bill Williams is planning to have the Youth Choir and the Senior Choir sing together during the Union Church Services to be held at our church for the month of July. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The Woman's Union and the Sunday School have generously offered to help in raising the \$232.00 needed to send our young people to the Summer Camps. Individual gifts would be of great assistance in making it possible for our boys and girls to take advantage of this splendid opportunity. Make your contribution to any officer of the church or the Pastor. The Board of Trustees are to have a short meeting at the close of the service to arrange for the necessary funds. Thirty-one of our young people have registered to date.

Our Summer Communion Service will be held next Sunday at the 11 o'clock hour. To keep the "tryst" is your responsibility each time the sacrament is observed. New members are welcomed at this time. These are days when we need the church and the church needs us. Take this as your invitation and speak to the Pastor concerning your decision. The "little ones" are to be Baptized at the same service, naming them after the name of Christ.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE DELEGATES

(The delegates will kindly come forward as their names are called, standing at the steps of the chancel. Junior High folks will stand in front of the Seniors.)

The Charge by the Pastor:

We commission you as delegates of The First Presbyterian Church, Northville, to the Waldenwoods Conference and Camp, because any young person who attends a Presbyterian Conference of necessity represents a church. Do you the members of the church who are to assist in sending them feel that this group is representative of our finest youth in the church and the community.

Congregational Response:

We do accept them and hereby commission them.

The Assignment:

Will you, as our delegates to the Waldenwoods Conference and Camp of the year 1944, do all in your power, by your individual effort, to maintain "the conference spirit?" Will you seek to gain the greatest benefit from the conference experience, for yourself and for the Church you represent? If it is your intention answer "I will."

The Commissioning Prayer: (by People and Pastor)

"O God, our Father, we thank Thee for all the ways in which Thou dost show Thyself to us, and help us to know Thee. Guide and inspire these who go for us to a gathering of Christian youth. Enrich their lives, enlighten their minds. Impress Thy holy will upon their wills, we pray. And may the life of this congregation be renewed and strengthened by their influence in the months to come. We ask in Jesus name. Amen."

The Officers of the Church and the Church Organizations

For the Year 1944 - 45

THE SESSION—Meets the Fourth Wednesday

The Pastor - Moderator

Term 1945

1946

1947

Gerald V. Harrison	Lee M. Eaton, Clerk	Edmund S. Beard
Mrs. Ralph L. Hay	Mrs. C. M. Chase	C. Ray VanValkenburg
Donald P. Yerkes, Sr.	Dr. Wilbur H. Johnston	Joseph W. Hoehl
Charles L. Dubuar—Elder Emeritus		
C. Ray VanValkenburg—Benevolence Treasurer		

THE TRUSTEES—Meets the First Wednesday

Term 1945

1946

1947

George I. Price	Richard Bartholomew	John W. Blackburn
Mrs. Chas. F. Murphy	Miss Marjorie Chase	Mrs. H. B. Clark
Dr. Wilbur H. Johnston	Louis Nagy	James W. McKinney
Mrs. Harry F. Wagenschutz, Church Treasurer		

THE WOMAN'S UNION—Meets the Second Wednesday

(The Neighborhood Circles—The Fourth Wednesday)

Mrs. Harold D. Tuck, President	Mrs. L. M. Eaton, Rec. Secretary
Mrs. Joseph Denton, Vice President	Mrs. H. S. Willis, Cor. Secretary
Mrs. Merrill Sweet, Treasurer	

THE NELLIE YERKES AUXILIARY—First and Third Tuesdays

Mrs. Charles Yahne, President	Mrs. Kenneth Rathburn, Secretary
Miss Marjorie Chase, Vice Pres.	Mrs. Keene Bolton, Treasurer

THE MEN'S CLUB—Last Monday of Month

Kenneth P. MacKay, President	James W. McKinney, Secretary
George I. Price, Vice President	Edmund S. Beard, Treasurer

THE CHURCH SCHOOL—Sunday, 10 a.m.

John W. Blackburn, Supt.	Pearl E. Denton, Secretary
G. V. Harrison, Asst. Supt.	Walter L. Couse, Treasurer
Miss Dorothy Grieger, Financial Secretary	

JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

Katie Kampf, President	Mary Ann Ayers, Secretary
Joyce Howarth, Vice President	Kurt Ely, Treasurer
Mrs. Alfred H. Vogtlin, Advisor	

INTERMEDIATE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—Wednesday, 4 pm.

Mickey Nagy, President	Dorothy Grieger, Secretary
Patricia Johnston, Vice President	Patrick Herriman, Treasurer
Mrs. Ward Masters, Advisor — Mrs. S. K. Stephens, Hostess	

SENIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—Sunday, 7 p.m.

Bob J. Masters, President	Esther Mae Stanford, Secretary
Linwood W. Snow, Vice President	Coralyn Stephens, Treasurer

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY—Monthly Meeting

Pearl E. Denton, President	S. Kay Stephens, Jr., Vice Pres.
Marjorie Chase, Secretary - Treasurer	

"Grant, O Lord, great power to these Thy disciples in this generation"

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

August 10, 1944

The Rev. Harold F. Fredsell
250 East Main Street
Northville, Michigan

My dear Mr. Fredsell:

Mr. Jackman is away from the office on vacation and I
am, therefore, acknowledging your letter of August ninth in
his absence. A copy of it is being forwarded to him for his
attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

P

Y

First Presbyterian Church
Main and Church Streets
Northville, Michigan

Dear Dr. Jackman:

We were very happy to receive your letter sent to us from Chicago. Being near by we hoped you could stop off at Detroit and visit with us. Mrs. Fredsell would enjoy meeting you and I hope if you have the opportunity you will drop in for a visit.

Your statement concerning Ed. Knudson and that my references meet with your approval definitely clear the way for our ministry at Skagway. We have talked with two of the leading Elders here and we are having a meeting of the two Boards on Thursday evening. Our folks at the Church feel that Alaska being an area of great need and that if we can be used of God we should by all means heed this call to service. Will you therefore proceed with the necessary steps for our appointment to the Skagway Church.

I have a fine young Christian layman who I would like to commend to you and who is interested in working under our Board in Alaska. He is John W. Blackburn, the Superintendent of our Northville Sunday School and a Trustee of the Church. Mr. Blackburn is a graduate of the University of Michigan, a man of ability, good judgment with a pleasant personality. At present he is a manager of a department store but I think he could be helpful in our work. He is very skillful with tools and is interested in teaching boys and girls. An excellent woodworker I am wondering if we could use him at the Sheldon Jackson School or at Haines House. Mrs. Blackburn his wife, is a consecrated and capable young Christian woman. They are both in their early thirties with a lovely family of three small girls. Alaska has a great appeal for them and perhaps you know of an area where they could be of use to the Kingdom. If you cannot use Mr. Blackburn would you permit me to write to Mr. Rasmussen of the Bank of Alaska asking about openings for young men who desire to work there? Have you incidentally heard from Elder Rasmussen concerning any changes in Skagway? We are very close to the Blackburns and if they could locate in Skagway I know they would be helpful to the Church and the community.

This is an unusual request but I hope you will understand the spirit of helpfulness in which it is offered. From your experience in visiting Alaska we would appreciate any helpful suggestions as to what we should bring with us. We would incidentally like to know the cost of the passage on the boat from Seattle to Skagway. Mr. Rotenberry's letter would be useful to us if your secretary would kindly make us a copy of it. Mrs. Fredsell and myself are constantly asking God's guidance in the change we are now making. Thank you for your good counsel.

Cordially,

(signed) Harold F. Fredsell

250 East Main Street
Northville, Michigan

August 18, 1944

The Rev. Harold F. Fredsell
250 East Main Street
Northville, Michigan

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your recent letter which reports that all conditions are clearing with you in Northville for your acceptance of service with the Board of National Missions in Skagway, Alaska. We are delighted to learn that this development is coming, and trust the Lord will use you with great spiritual power in this new field of work.

It is my pleasure to send you this formal notice of your appointment to the ministry of the Church in Skagway, Alaska. You will receive a salary of \$2000.00 and manse with provision for the pension payments, and one month's vacation. One half of this salary is to be paid by the church and one half by the Board of National Missions, at the beginning of this arrangement. Whatever change may be made, will be made with the mutual agreement of yourself, the church and our office.

I am supposed to be on vacation just now, but have returned to the office for a couple of days to complete some emergency matters which have arisen. You have some other questions in your letter, which I shall delay answering until early September when I return from vacation. We shall then hope to give you a full statement of the Board's responsibility for your expenses to the field, and the service and furlough provisions. Miss Koerner is away on her vacation, but we will ask her to copy the excerpts from Mr. Rotenberry's letter when she returns and forward them to you. We are sure you will want all of the information which you can receive as you look forward in anticipation to this new adventure in Christian service.

Sorry that I was not able to stop off in Detroit and have a visit with all of the family. If it is possible before you leave the States, I will do this, but cannot be sure to do it at this writing.

We are interested in your suggestion of Mr. Blackburn and his family. This is the type of family we are interested in getting to go to Alaska, and we shall be glad to cooperate with you in finding something for him to do there. You may feel free to write to Mr. E. A. Rasmuson in Skagway in regard to prospects for Mr. Blackburn. We have not heard from Mr. Rasmuson, but presume he has returned to Alaska since his attendance at the republican convention in Chicago.

Rev. Redsell

-2-

August 18, 1944

I shall write you early September in more detail about later plans, as we look forward to the beginning of October.

Cordially yours,

JEJ/mk

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

Dictated but not signed by
Mr. Jackman

3/15/44
Frederick

August 18, 1944

AIR MAIL

Mr. E. A. Rasmuson
Skagway, Alaska

My dear Mr. Rasmuson:

Before Mr. Knudsen left Alaska, I laid before him the situation that we had been holding the Skagway Church for him, and then when he decided not to return to Alaska at all, it left us again with no minister for Skagway. Later I saw him and he asked for time to consider the church at Chatfield, Minnesota, before making a final decision. During a visit in Chicago, the first week of August, he informed me that he had decided to go to Chatfield because of family, and other reasons, so he will not be available for you this fall.

We have been continuing our search, and believe we now have the person who will render an excellent ministry in your church. He is the Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, 250 East Main Street, Northville, Michigan. You may recognize this as an address just suburban to Detroit, but Mr. Fredsell is a native of the New York area and is graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. We have made a pretty thorough investigation of him and his work. From personal interviews with him, we like him because of his friendly personality and thoroughly Christian attitudes. I have not met his wife yet, but am informed that she is a capable young woman who is a great help to him in his work. She is well qualified in the field of music and is willing to use her abilities in Christian service. I believe they have several small children who make up the family circle.

Mr. Fredsell desires to be with his congregation for World Wide Communion Sunday, and will then proceed as rapidly as possible by rail and boat to Skagway. We trust he will be there by October 15.

We are sending him with the understanding that his salary will be \$2000.00 a year, furnished manse, with one month's vacation, and provision for the pension payments. One half of the salary is to be paid by the Church and one half by the Board under the present arrangement. We have told him that we want him to devote his entire energy and effort to the work of the church and the community, without thought of remuneration there from any other source, and we feel that he will consecrate himself to that main task great advantages will result for our church in Skagway.

We feel that the manse should be vacated before, and cleaned in readiness for the arrival of the Fredsells. If they decide later they want to rent a

Mr. Rasmuson 12-1 August 18, 1944

room to someone, that is a matter between your officers and them, but certainly at the start they should be given the utmost freedom and the complete use of the manse.

Mr. Fredsell has written concerning a young man in his congregation who is interested in coming to Alaska for work. This young couple is active in the church and would make a real contribution toward any community in which they would reside. I have suggested that he write you about it to see if any help could be given them in finding work in your territory.

We have been a long time finding a satisfactory minister for you, but feel certain we have such a person now. We trust that the coming of the Fredsells will prove a great blessing to your people, and that your people will receive them heartily and give utmost cooperation for an advanced Spiritual program for the Church and Community.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ/mk

Dictated but not signed by Mr.
Jackman

HAROLD F. FREDSELL, M. A., PASTOR
250 EAST MAIN STREET

L. M. EATON
CLERK OF SESSION
365 EATON DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church

MAIN AND CHURCH STREETS

Northville, Michigan

SEP 20 1944
DR. MARK A. GARDNER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
312 RANDOLPH STREET

E. JANE WAGENSCHUTZ
341 BEAL STREET
TREASURER

September 19, 1944

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of York in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

It was good to hear from and we are grateful for the additional information concerning our work in Alaska. We are rapidly bringing our work to a close here and disposing of our furniture. The morning mail brought a very nice letter from Mr. Rasmuson, who incidentally did not encourage Mr. Blackburn to go to Skagway because of the shortage of work. With his technical ability and educational background I am wondering if Mr. Blackburn would not be helpful to you at either Sitka or Haines House.

Now as to some of your suggestions. For the very cold weather we purchased a snow suit for Mrs. Fredsell and we are looking for one for our daughter. Willis Booth recommends rain resisting cloths and we are planning to purchase warm raincoats. Thank you for the information concerning dark glasses, I am having a pair made up from my prescription. I wrote to Mr. Howell in August saying that I planned to drive and that I hoped he would be able to sell my car for me. Unfortunately the letter was returned because his present address differs with that in the Minutes of the G. A. I found his new address in "Five Continents" and sent it on to him.

We have worked out a splendid program for the Northville Church to meet the present emergency as to the shortage of men. Dr. J. Leslie French of Ann Arbor who retired last year and is on pension is to live at the Manse and carry on the Pastoral responsibilities until a new man can be found. The Church is also calling a young woman who is about to graduate from Maryville College to be the Director of Religious Education and carry on the youth program. Our Northville Church is planning to pay no pension payments which appears to be an embarrassing situation in Skagway, it will also aid the Board.

The Detroit Presbytery met at the Northville Church yesterday for its fall meeting. The Executive and the Stated Clerk of Presbytery in meeting with the Northville Elders recommended that in lieu of the fact that I would be going to Skagway as a Stated Clerk I could be placed with the Board under a leave of absence from the Presbytery rather than dissolving the Pastoral relationship at the present time. This would allow the Northville Church to become self-sustaining and call their man as the Pastor. The leave of absence is for a year at which time, Presbytery and the Church will reopen the matter (or sooner) and the relationship could be changed through correspondence. A factor involved in this arrangement is that the Northville Church is planning to raise \$500.00 for the Board's work in Skagway, thus

HAROLD F. FREDSELL, M. A., PASTOR
250 EAST MAIN STREET

L. M. EATON
CLERK OF SESSION
305 EATON DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church

MAIN AND CHURCH STREETS

Northville, Michigan

DR. MARK A. GARDNER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
312 RANDOLPH STREET

E. JANE WAGENSCHUTZ
341 BEAL STREET
TREASURER

page 2.

participating to a larger degree in the missionary program of the Church. It was pointed out that I would be able to do everything for the Skagway Church except possibly receive new members at a Session meeting, which would mean that a neighboring Pastor might moderate the Session, three or four times a year. Even that detail would depend upon how strict the letter of the law was observed in the Presbytery of Alaska concerning the appointment of a Stated Supply whose membership would be in another Presbytery as to whether he could moderate the local Session.

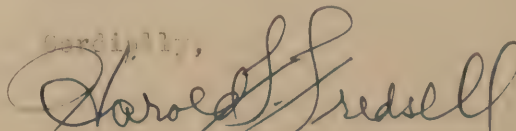
This arrangement pleased our Northville people immensely who feel that possibly in three or four years we might be back. There are many intangibles in the picture and time will tell. Mrs. Fredsell and myself are of the opinion that God will use us where we can do the greatest good. We are determined to give the Skagway Church all that we have in us. Our books, our music and our abilities will minister to these people and we hope to build an educational program that will bear great returns for the Kingdom of God. Some of our goals are that the Church will become self-sustaining by adopting the spiritual emphasis of a well-conducted Every Member Participation Program. If we cannot help those good ladies to catch the importance of Christian Missions there must be something wrong with us. We are both looking forward to working with the Service Men and making that Manse into a miniature Hospitality House. If Alaska develops as current opinions so imply, it will give us great joy to have helped in building a strong Presbyterian Church and in winning that vast territory for Jesus Christ. Our prayers are that we might be so used of God.

You probably heard from the Board of Christian Education that the young people at the Clear Lake Summer Conference raised \$ 137. 00 for the War-Time Service Program of the Skagway., Alaska Church. They wanted the Director of the Conference to convey to the service men in Skagway their interest and prayers for their happiness and spiritual life. For 86 young people, that offering represented a sacrifice.

We plan to leave Northville on the 2nd or 3rd of October and if the boat reservations permit, arrive in Seattle around the 15th. With our little daughter we do not think we can drive as far each day as we could under different circumstances. We are awaiting a reply from Mr. Howell as to when he can get reservations.

Moving has proved to be quite a problem with the impossibility of getting wooden boxes and the movers refusing to come to Northville due to the shortage of help. Freight regulations will not permit us to use cardboard cartons, it looks like I will have to carry things to Detroit and have things repacked in barrel's with water-proof liners. However, we are taking things in our stride and nothing can obscure our vision of the task ahead. Thank you again for the various enclosures you sent and the good counsel.

Sincerely,


Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

0078 1944
Cedar Rapids, Iowa (en route)
October 3, 1944

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

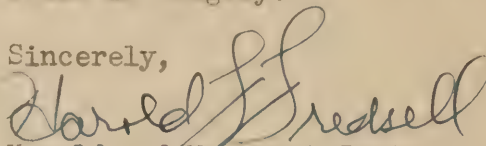
Greetings! We are on our way to Skagway, Alaska. Our farewells were made at Northville, Mich and we were able to get away on Monday afternoon. A slight handicap in health made it a busy World-Wide Communion week-end. After leaving you on Tuesday night in Detroit, they sent me to the Grace Hospital for Wednesday through Friday. My Doctor was afraid of pleurisy and was concerned about my driving across country. After the second day my pain in the left side was much improved and my temperature was again normal. My own diagnosis is that our Northville folks had dined and were too kind to us.

My particular point in writing is to convey to you a suggestion from Willis Booth. He just wrote me saying that the Canadian Pacific S. S. Co., granted clergy rates to Missionaries and that in Alaska a ministers wife is also a missionary. In so far as our names are not listed in "The Year Book of Prayer" or any official publication we will need in order to secure this special rate a letter from you saying we are both going as missionaries to our work in Skagway. Booth suggested I have this letter from you. My thought is that you write this letter for us to Rev. W. J. Howell and send it air-mail special delivery. Perhaps then it will reach Seattle by the tenth of the month when we are due.

I had my trunks sent to Seattle in hopes that the boat would allow us to carry our trunks and thereby save the cost of having them go direct to Skagway. A wooden export box with our bedding which I sent direct cost us \$24.00, this seems exorbitant but with freight taking two months to arrive Railway Express seemed the only logical way.

We certainly enjoyed seeing you in Detroit and we are looking forward to meeting our folks in Stragway.

Sincerely,


Harold and Margaret Fredsell



OCT 27 1944

ON BOARD SS. Princess Louise

Sunday Oct 15, 1944

Rev. Earl Jackman, Sec.
Unit of working Alaska
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
1561 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

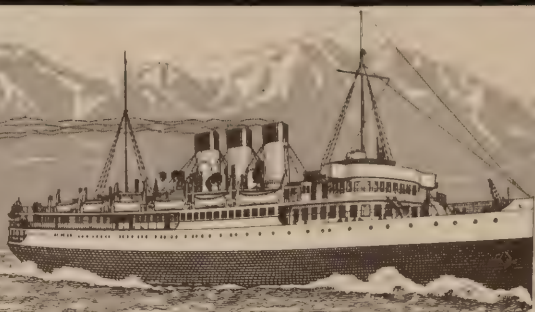
This is our last day aboard
our boat and I thought I would
like to give you some observations
while they are fresh in mind and
before we get very busy in our new
work.

We had a church service
this morning at 11 a.m. for our protestant
people. The ships officers made no
plans concerning a service so on
Saturday I asked the Purser if we
could not arrange for morning worship.
I conducted the service and preached
assisted by an assembly of God men and a
(over)

(2)

Salvation Army man. We had a good turn out and took an offering for the Seaman's Fund. We have aboard a Catholic Priest from Seward and six nuns who are on their way to Kodiak. They had Mass at 7:30 a.m. and I am happy that our Protestant service was held.

You will be interested to know that this young Assembly of God man named Capeau and his wife with two children are starting a new work at Nome. The Salvation Army man named Dietz and his wife are enroute to Sitka. We had a young lady aboard who is going to work at the Church of Christ in Juneau assisting the resident pastor there. All three of these workers were met by Pastors located in Ketchikan and Sitka. I am amazed to hear from them the work they are contemplating in Alaska. It is a serious indictment of our organized churches that these small ecstatic groups are filling in.



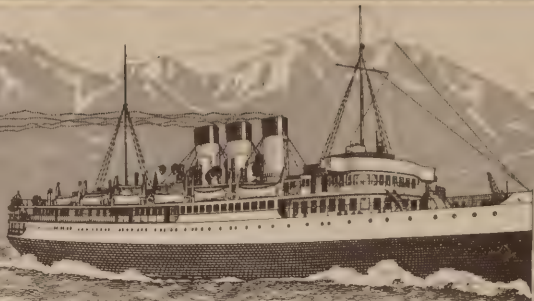
(3)

ON BOARD SS.

When we came to Ketchikan it was raining continuously. All three of us bundled up and went on a tour looking for our church. With Jim Hall being away I did not think we could make any contacts but we were delighted to see the apartment above the church all lit up. The church from outside looks excellent all painted up and in a good location. On the interior it looked like it was in good repair. We found two young school teachers living in the apartment over the church. They had rented the apartment from the Elders after the Galls had left. The Elders had told them that with 2500 vacant churches it was doubtful that Ketchikan would get a man.

However the girls said they had ^④
rented it with the understanding
that if a minister came they would
vacate. We had a nice friendly
visit and they spoke well of Mr
& Mrs Hall's work. The church is
now largely attended by white
people with a chaplain (Presby)
from the Coast Guard's preaching.
We told the girls that Mr. Howell
said the Greemans were taking
up the work in Ketchikan and
they were grateful to get word
of it early enough to look
around for a place. If Greeman
has two children that certainly
is not much of a place to live on
that busy street. I understand
from the Assembly of God man that
there are eleven religious groups
all trying to work in Ketchikan.
The result being that each church
has 15 or 20 in attendance.

We arrived at Wrangell 7:00
a.m. in the morning for a short
stop. No one got off due to the
length of stay, breakfast and the
incessant rain. I planned to see



(5)

ON BOARD SS.

Ben Judd but it was difficult to do so. Two Salvation Army lassies were at the dock to greet this couple enroute to Sitka. These two girls had arrived at Wrangel two weeks before. When we passed Petersburg (these Canadian boats C.P.R. they tell me never stop there) the Salvation Army man told of their work in that pretty little community. With all these poorly trained but zealous workers going into Alaska the challenges of Christian statesmanship on the part of our established churches is urgent. I am glad we took the initiative ~~in~~ holding a service aboard - the travelers spoke highly of it and the ship's officers were impressed. We protestants are lax they did not have a church service aboard ship all summer.

We are looking forward to visiting at Juneau (if time permits), although I understand the Booths are in the States.

I am planning to send you an itemized statement of our expenses. I do not know definitely the final figures on our freight. We will certainly need at least the \$400.00 you thought you would be able to allow. Here is a summary:

Total transportation:	
Northville to Seattle	219. -
Seattle to Skagway	107. -
Freight	158. -
Trunks (Northville to Seattle)	60. -
	544. -

With the two trunks we had to buy along with rain coats, heavy shoes and some woollen underwear our Alaskan trip to date has cost over \$625.00. Selling our household goods in Northville we will still have to buy incidentals for the house in Skagway. Of course I do not expect the Board to meet all these expenses but I thought you ought to have the full picture.

We are anxiously looking forward to our new work and nothing can keep us from witnessing to the saving power of God through Christ.

Harold + Margaret Stedell
Cordelia

OCT 30 1944

Rev. J. Earl Jackson, Sec.,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Thank you for your cheerful letter welcoming us to Skagway, Alaska. My last word to you was aboard the S. S. Princess Louise written on Sunday afternoon. We arrived in Juneau about 8:30 p.m. and with the Booth's away we called on the phone both the Prouty's and the Soboleff's, but we received no answer. Being determined we took a cab and went first to the Northern Light Church, but all was darkness then we went on to 814 Gold Belt Avenue where we met Mrs. Prouty who had just come in. Paul Prouty was preaching at the Memorial Church. Mrs. Prouty called Walter Soboleff and after a while we all got together. It was a real joy to meet these fellow Christian workers. We promised we would renew our friendship at Presbytery meeting in March.

Our first week in Skagway has been a busy one. Much manual labor has been needed to put the Manse in order. The Chaplain has been very helpful in introducing me to civilian and army folks. All seem very pleased to have a resident Pastor in the community again after a year's vacancy.

You want a frank report so let me give you some first hand observations. From the stand point of civilian support the Skagway Church is just about dormant. Ten or twelve people have proved to be the faithful few in attendance. In the opinion of the Chaplain and I believe he is correct, if our church had not sent a man into Skagway this fall our work would have come to a close. Indifference appears to be the main reason. A free lance Pentecostal couple have set up a mission and young people's center in town but to date they have not been anymore successful. The soldiers have carried the Sunday School. When they leave around the end of November the question of teachers will be acute. A choir has not been functioning for three months, but we have started to work on that already. We are indebted to the Chaplain for the interest and leadership he has given the Skagway Church and the Sunday School. Mr. E. A. Rasmussen is very enthusiastic about the future of the church. We have not sent to do anything on the church basement and until I can change his feelings toward the church I am going to let the matter rest. With a part-time minister on the field the chaplain is being transferred to somewhere outside of Whitehorse at the end of November or sooner.

Since I am in charge of the church, I have asked the church members and the lay people to help me in this work. At present I am planning to call upon everybody in the community living in a list of the Protestant families. I have a considerable job of pastoral work and will naturally break down this work. The church has not met for over a year, we will now have regular meetings. Mr. Resnason and his wife plan to go to California again this winter, so with only two Elders it might be advisable to increase the size of the Session. I understand the Trustees do not meet, Mr. Johnston the Treasurer merely pays the bills. The Chaplain tells me that the Treasurer has not been in church since last Easter which does not sound so good. We are not dismayed by these things however, for we are determined to win these folks to Christ and the Church.

The Skagway Church not only lacks organization it is in bad need of a program. A youth program must be launched centering in the church. This should be aimed for Juniors and Intermediates. The adults likewise need mid-week activities to bind them into a fellowship. A Pastor's Class on Church Membership will be started soon. The Church should be used seven days a week instead of solely on Sundays.

Both the organization and the program will need some method of promotion. Not having a community newspaper it will be difficult to get things across. With people not attending the church service I sense the need of something getting into the homes. It appears to me that a news letter would be very helpful to go to every protestant home. If I can get some young people to do the work it would have tremendous value. A slight charge could be made to make it self-supporting. The bank does not own a mimeograph as I had hoped, but for the time being I can use the Army's until that is moved with the rest of the equipment. (This poorly written letter is being typed in the R. C. building, with the money for ~~the~~ the to Paul McConkey in Seattle asking him to have the first church service a mimeograph and perhaps a small hand operated addressograph with the cardboard stencils.

This ~~task~~ task calls for Christian statesmanship also. Here in Skagway there are three Roman Catholic priests who are stealing a march on us. They are using the army for a good thing. The Catholic Church now owns the only dairy which is being operated by two young service men. The fifty bed hospital built three miles up the river by the army at a tremendous cost is now being turned over to the Department of Alaskan affairs. It is rumored that it is to be used as a T. B. Sanatorium for natives and operated by the Skagway priests and staffed with nuns. The Skagway R. C. Pastor is also interested in starting a parochial school by ~~the~~ purchasing some of these buildings from the army. I have met this Father Gallant, the Pastor. He is a man of ability living here in Skagway more than twenty years.

While the Chaplain is still here I am planning to get over to Valdez some Sunday in November to give your instructions. I am afraid there are some new developments there and I will report to you accordingly. You will be installed in the Episcopal Palace representing the Episcopal organization in Alaska. Incidentally the Episcopalians are the only ones in Skagway who have any protestant work with them the Methodists.

That gives you some of my thoughts on the Church. ^{11/2/44} Let me say a bit about the house. This building has had some trouble for the past year or two. Mr. Rostenbury stated it is up to the goldiers which was fine, but in his opinion they have had too much. The hard wood floors are in that way and need varnishing. The upholstered furniture is stained and worn. Due to the heavy rain clothes which the boys washed at the house, the rubber fingers on the washing machine should be replaced when possible. A leak in the roof has stained the living room and kitchen walls and the flooring is warped due to the rain water. Obviously because the house built the house I cannot hold any responsibility on the part of the officers of the church for the state of the building. We will try to change this feeling as soon as possible. I am going to try and get the women's organization to take over the care of the house. The ladies want to get a soldier to clean the house but it is far from presentable. Mrs. Fredwell is working on it, it has needed a woman's hand for over a year.

A matter we will work on also, when the time seems ripe is to get the Skagway people to undertake the proper furnishing of the house. On the basis of Rostenbury's letter which I received from you and the advice you passed on, we took with us only necessities. You cannot buy any housefurnishings in town, so what you need you must take with you. My plan is to get the Skagway Church to purchase from us some of the things we brought with us such as, linens, cooking utensils, a vacuum cleaner, radio, blankets and perhaps for the pastor a typewriter and file. This would save any man coming in and incidentally the Board a great deal of expense and work.

Due to the war, the cost of freight and crating is high. We just heard today from Mr. Blackburn who is handling for us our freight from Northville. To save expense we personally got a truck and carried our boxes into the John F. Ivory Moving Company in Detroit. They are a reliable concern and moved us from N.Y.C. to Northville. Following government instructions for shipments to Alaska they packed our wardrobe boxes as well as the radio, typewriter, file and sewing machine. For crating and freight my bill from Detroit to Seattle is \$311.00. It will come from Seattle to Skagway collect as the rates were not known. Probably it will be another \$100.00 on the ~~next~~ boat. This four hundred dollars is above the figure I gave you last Sunday which will bring the total around nine hundred dollars.

Every Church in calling a minister assumes the expense of bringing the man and his family to the new field. It is my suggestion that when I get the final figures you might write to Mr. Hal. Johnston, the Treasurer of the Skagway Church asking them to assume half the expenses involved in bringing a man to Skagway. If the church assumes this policy, perhaps the church and its likewise and we could carry the difference. I understand the Skagway Church has the funds necessary and perhaps this is the time to have them take some of the responsibility.

11/2/44
Late return
franchise
granted to
Mr. Latty
of Co. C
Phil. Pa

11/2/44
To
Hal Johnston

...the cost of living is almost everywhere, with higher rents a part of the trouble. I am still interested in my laboratory with the children but no longer outside work. We are determined however to give the church our full time and undivided leadership. A difficult task confronts us if we are to re-establish the Skagway Church. If we cannot live on our support from the Church and the Board we will face the question when it arises. We aim to give our best to the Church and we know God in his great mercy will direct our ways.

I am preaching at both services this Sunday and Mrs. Fredsell is singing in the choir. We are anxiously setting out on our work knowing that if we do our part, Christ and His Church will reap the harvest.

Thank you for the encouraging newsletter and the helpful edition of "Our Times."

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell

Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor
Skagway Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian House
Shagway Alaska

NOV 6 1944

October 25, 1944

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Not being familiar with the enclosed form I have filled it out to the best of my judgment. You very graciously told me I would be paid ^{as of} October 1st and I assume it will be necessary for me to send in the voucher in order to have a check issued. We have not received anything to date from the church and what with laying out so much for freight and traveling expenses we are running very low.

The S. A. Rasmussen's are leaving here on November 18th. If you think the Shagway Church should be asked to assume half the expenses involved in our coming to Shagway, I think it would be wise for you to

hospitality house. The prestige^③
and witness of the Presbyterian
Church is certainly being
extended as far as these boys
are concerned. Will you let
me know how war time

Service funds are made
available, there is a lot to be
done here among the soldiers.

If you suggest I will write
to Mr. A. Roberts telling him
of some of the possibilities here
and making formal application.

A full monthly report will
cover my work from the 15th of
October to the 14th of November.
Church services were well
attended both Sunday morning and
Sunday evening. cordially

(Typewriter
en-route)

Harold S. Sredell

write to the Treasurer Mr.^②
L. H. Johnston, preferably while the
Rasmusons are still here.
Mr. Johnston and all the local
people think a lot of Mr.
Rasmuson's opinion.

There is quite a story
to be written about the loyalty
and devotion of these service-
men to the work of the Skagway
Church. They just about do
everything from teaching in the
Sunday School, singing in the
choir, acting as Sexton and
conducting the Young Peoples
meetings. We are anxious
to entertain them and make
the house into a miniature

NOV 27 1944

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Stated Supply.

November 15, 1944

Report for the month of October 15th to November 14th
To the Board of National Missions
J. Earl Jackman, Sec. Unit of Work in Alaska.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

After actually being one month on this mission field, we are convinced as to the timely importance of our work. The Protestant Chaplain was removed, one week after we arrived. This meant that there was not a protestant minister from Juneau to White Horse a distance of over two hundred miles. Aside from the civilian population of Skagway and Haines, there are about 1200 service men in this area.

The Chaplain and the service men have been carrying on the work of the Presbyterian Church for the past year. With the removal of the Chaplain and with over half the present soldiers going out this week, the local church will suffer a tremendous loss. The young officer acting as Sunday School Superintendent, the entire choir, the three G. I. Sunday School teachers and the Sexton are all sailing aboard the army transport on Saturday of this week. In the opinion of the few civilians who are now attending Church, if our Board had not sent a man in when they did our Presbyterian work would have at least temporarily come to an end. The only outstanding Elder capable of leadership (E. A. Rasmuson) is leaving for the States on November 18th. He will be gone for the winter months. In the humble opinion of your missionary we are changing the pessimism of the situation into a more wholesome picture. Some of the civilian members are now coming back to the church, with an average attendance of 60, we ^{are} averaging half towns-people and half army personnel.

Our work with the service men is significant and bearing great fruit. The prestige and importance of the Presbyterian Church to these many service men is an important factor. Skagway has had 3000 soldiers and the official Protestant Army Chapel has been the local Presbyterian Church. The Manse is and has been a very real "hospitality house", every Sunday evening after the Vesper Service these young men attend "Open House" where the minister's wife serves coffee and cake to these men who so miss the atmosphere of a home. A more practical contribution is how the men appreciate the use of the bath tub and the washing machine for their laundry.

You will notice according to my report that on November 1st and 2nd, I visited the men stationed along the outposts of the White Pass and Yukon Rail road. There are ten stops along this one hundred and twenty miles of road. This is one of the most dangerous railroads ever constructed, trains seldom ever run at night because of the slides, wash outs and tremendous snow banks. A permanent pass for the road was issued to me by the officials that I might visit and conduct services for the men stationed along this bleak and lonely stretch.

Re: Missionarys trip to out posts of White Pass and Yukon R. R.

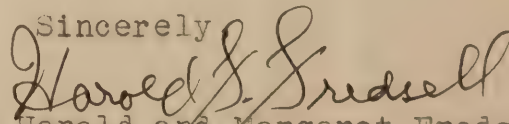
Each of these ten posts or stops along the line have from ten to twenty five service men living in these crude buildings. It is there responsibility to patrol the tracks, keeping them intact, watching for fires and to clear the snow and ice. The bleak loneliness of these out posts cannot be realized, especially during the long winter months. As a result the only outlet for these boys is drinking and gambling. They seemed genuinely glad to have a short visit from the missionary, and to make his acquaintance. With weather permitting, this initial visit will be followed up. It is thought that service men will be replaced by civilian personnel (if they can get them to stay).

Communion was ~~observed~~ observed on November 5th at the morning service, the first time this year. Fifty three participated in the Lord's Supper. Elders E. A. Rasmuson and Axel Rasmussen, served assisted by two fine young service men. One of these boys was a Deacon of our Presbyterian Church in Tenafly N. J. (Wm. Nesbit)

It was my plan to visit our mission and church at Haines on November 14th and 15th. Due to a severe storm, the army officials who run the boat advised that I postpone my visit. I am planning to go over next week if all is well. We are placing the Skagway Manse at the disposal of our Haines Mission personnel who must visit Skagway for medical and dental services. The only hotel in town is packed to capacity. We had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Maurstedt, the Director of Haines House as well as the cook and dietitian Miss Calicard. We have just heard from a Haines visitor of a new minister who is in that community. With our church vacant, it will be unfortunate if some free lance brother gets started there. I will report immediately on the situation as soon as I am able.

Our last letter from Dr. Jackman was on October 13th. I am anxiously awaiting some word on our freight expenses as I stated in my last two letters. It has been a month and a half since our goods left Detroit and to date we have not received them. They are probably in Seattle awaiting payment for Alaskan shipment. When I consulted Mr. Rasmuson on the suggestion of the Skagway church paying part of the cost of our transportation, he was very surprised that the Board had not paid all our expenses. He stated that when Mrs. Rasmuson and himself were sent to ~~XX~~ Yakutat as missionaries under The Mission Covenant Church all their expenses were paid. I had hoped I would have had some correspondence on this matter before the meeting of our joint Boards.

We remember in our prayers the great world-wide mission program of our Church and earnestly pray that we might be more effective servants of our Lord and Master.

Sincerely

 Harold and Margaret Fredsell

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Stated Supply

NOV 27 1944

November 16, 1944

Supplement to the report of Oct. 15th to November 14th:

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Your most welcomed letter was at the post office when I went to mail the enclosed report. Thank you for your kind and encouraging words, your prayers are helpful. We are happy to receive the additional check for \$250. 00 toward our expenses as well as the \$137. 10 which we will use toward our work with the servicemen. I will draft a short report for the Committee on Camp and Church Activities.

Both Mr. H. I. Johnston and myself received our letters on the very day that the Trustees and Elders were having a pot-luck supper and meeting at the Manse. We had a splendid meeting to consider the church program. Among other things we are launching a weekly bulletin which will be mailed to the homes. Although the officers are somewhat pessimistic concerning the future of the church, they are willing to give the new young "Preacher" some support and backing. (That's all we need.) Our organist and choir Director went with the Chaplain so Mrs. Fredsell has had to take over this work. Realizing that this is not good leadership we are hunting for talent which we will train accordingly.

When the question was presented as to paying toward settling the missionary in Skagway considerable discussion took place. They were opposed toward the suggestion because they had never had to do it before. I feel you should know that Mr. Rasmuson is a little critical toward the Board. He has the attitude of many Alaskans who feel that the Church is always doing things for the Natives, instead of making the natives assume more responsibility. Dr. King's appeal to him for funds did not help the situation. However, it will all blow over but I thought you would want to know about it. The Trustees finally asked Mr. Johnston to write to you saying as I remember in substance that they would pay half the freight bill. I consider this a victory toward making the Skagway folks assume more responsibility. There are some fine Christian people here who I know will respond with the right leadership. We were generously paid as of Oct. 1st.

Thank you for remembering us to our many fine friends at the Jamaica Church. Good old Mr. McGill, the Pastor feels we are wasting our energies in Alaska, but Miss Huntting understands our attitude toward Christian service. Miss Stauffer stayed at the Manse last night I am going over to help the Haines people next week and also go with her to Klukwan and try to iron out a difficult situation. There are two free-lancers now at Haines as well as Klukwan.

Our prayers go to you in your difficult work of administration.

Cordially

Harold F. Fredsell

NOV 27 1944

ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL
The First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor-Chaplain

Brief report to The Committee on Camp and Church Activities.

A significant and unusual story can be written concerning the relationship of the Presbyterian Church at Skagway, Alaska to the soldiers of The North West Service Command. The army considered building a Chapel in this community but in the meantime they asked permission to use the Presbyterian Church (the only active protestant communion). This permission was granted and the ~~priest~~ protestant Chaplain alternated in conducting the morning and evening services with the resident Pastor. A similar arrangement was worked out with the Roman Catholic Church. At one time there was 3000 soldiers in this community which was taken over and administered by the army. The result has been that every piece of mimeographed material and every radio broadcast that concerned the chapel carried the name of the Presbyterian Church. A splendid new bulletin board contributed to the Church by the service men reads "Army and Civilian Chapel."

The prestige and leadership of the Presbyterian Church has certainly been advanced by this arrangement. Boys from all denominations have given generously of their time to the leadership of the local Church. The Sunday School Superintendent is a Methodist Sgt. from Kentucky, the Organist and Choir Director is a Lutheran officer, a Baptist and an Episcopalian teach in the Sunday School, a Seventh-Day Adventist is painting the interior of the Church in his spare time. At our last Communion Service, one of the soldiers assisting was a Deacon of our Presbyterian Church in Tenafly, N. J.

At one time the Church was used seven nights a week by the service men. Most of the radio programs are broadcast from the church, (we have the best piano in town). Due to the mountains surrounding Skagway it is almost impossible to get outside reception. The army post has therefore set up its own broadcasting station, (KSWY) Each Sunday Evening the song service from the Presbyterian Church is broadcast. To the boys stationed along the lonely bleak ten outposts of the White Pass and Yukon R. R. this is the only source of contact and enjoyment. We are now making plans to broadcast the Christmas Eve Mid-night service from the Church. This will mean a lot to the men, to many it will mean the only Christmas service they will know. ~~Civilians~~ Civilians are replacing the service men along the Rail Road (when and where they can be found) our ministry is therefore two-fold. The W. P. & Y. R. R. a strategic line to the interior is one of the most dangerous and certainly the most isolated of the roads in the North West. Three engines are needed to get a load over White Pass, an elevation of 1200 feet in a twenty mile distance.

To the Committee on Camp and Church Activities.

The Presbyterian Manse has been a source of great comfort to many of the boys located in this area. Every Sunday evening following the church service, "Open House" is held at the Manse. Usually twenty five to thirty boys enjoy the fine Christian fellowship of the church folks as they "fill in" on coffee and cake. The large open fireplace is very popular where they roast marshmallows, toast weenies, and pop corn. Like all G. I's they are lonely and enjoy most of all the pleasant atmosphere of a home.

Our Manse has paid for itself if we can count the gratitude that these boys have expressed concerning it. When the soldiers first came into Skagway, it was one of the very few places where these boys could take a bath. I am told the boys waited on line to avail themselves of this coveted opportunity. (This is a new way of winning converts.) ~~likewise~~ likewise the washing machine was in constant use as these facilities were not available.

Last week some of the boys in the Rail ~~and~~ Road Company asked permission to have a supper and party at the Manse for the girls in the choir. To our surprise these boys cooked and provided the entire meal and did all the dishes besides. One of these boys shipped out to Seattle a few days later, we have a letter from him saying that, the supper and party at the Manse was the finest evening he had known in his two years at Skagway. The Church to many of these boys is a mighty human and lovable institution. At their own initiative these boys made a dark room for developing pictures in the basement of the Manse and ~~also~~ also constructed a homemade ping pong table.

You want some word concerning the future of the soldiers in Skagway. Due to ~~these~~ censor regulations I cannot give you figures. A large group of boys went out yesterday. The danger of Japanese occupation now seems ~~less~~ very improbable, there remains however a railroad to maintain, an oil pipeline from the interior to service, and the protection of the dock. I understand we will continue to have some men here until Spring and Summer. The number will not be great, but it will give us the ~~opportunity~~ opportunity to do a more concentrated job.

My relationship is that of the protestant civilian chaplain. The army has extended to me many courtesies and appreciates the ministry that our church can extend. I visit regularly the army hospital as well as the White Pass and Yukon Hospital. As a member of The Board of Governors of the U. S. O. I counsel and enjoy the company of the soldiers at these lounge rooms.

Feel free to use any of this material, I hope it gives you a picture of our program.

Cordially

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell

NOV 27 1944

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska

ARMY AND CIVILIAN CHAPEL SERVICES
The Community Protestant Church Organized 1898

Harold F. Fredsell
Pastor

Clyde F. Straub
Chaplain

October 31, 1944

Dear Friend:

This letter is addressed to the many members and friends of the Protestant church in Skagway. In the short time we have been here we have enjoyed meeting many of the townspeople and the service men. It is our hope to get to know you all very well. We are counting on your support and friendship.

Our good friend Chaplain Straub left on Wednesday. We will miss him as well as our fine organist, Warren Wagner, both have meant a lot to the Protestant people of Skagway. The soldiers have carried on in fine fashion the Sunday School, the Choir and the entire Church program. With fewer service men in the community it will be up to the townspeople to assume more leadership. The soldiers are doing very well- let us not be remiss in taking our places in Church each Sunday. When men are dying for the things the Church has always worked for we are reminded of our responsibilities.

Let us therefore come together next Sunday morning and return thanks through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This service is at 10:45 A.M.; Sunday School meets one hour earlier. You will likewise enjoy the informal Sunday evening song service at 7:30 P.M. led by our genial friend, Mr. Travis Broadbent.

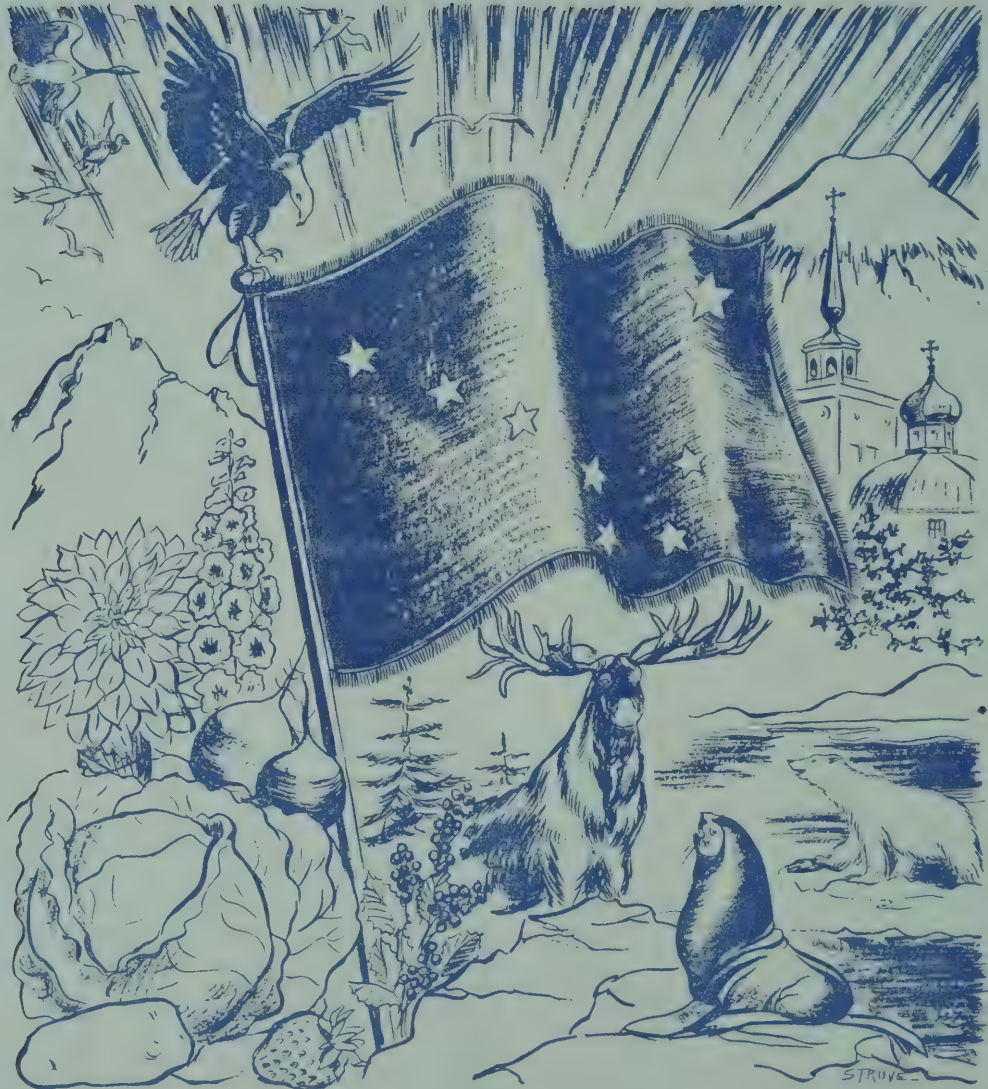
You need the Church and the Church needs you. We hope we can count on your help.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell

Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

DEC 4 1944



Dear

Robert Service sensed the mightiness of Alaska for he wrote:

"It's the cussedest land that I know,
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it,
To the deep, deathlike valleys below.
Some say God was tired when He made it;
Some say it's a fine land to shun;
Maybe; but there's some as would trade it
For no land on earth—and I'm one."

From what we see and hear, we are inclined to think God was plenty ambitious when He assembled this mass of grandeur; "the midnight sky, violet, amber and rose"; the greatest glaciers on earth,—robin-egg-blue rivers of unmelted snow; green rock mountains, same green water,—the color of young spruce shoots.

Everything about this wild world of wonders deals in superlatives and extremes. Alaska's 375,000,000 acreage is brimful, pressed down, running over with resources; timber, metallic mountains, elusive game, and millions of fish that swim off her 26,000-mile coast line. Her area covers one-fifth of the States, in fact longitudinally her toe stubs San Francisco and her heel rests on Savannah—a stretch of 2,500 miles.

The long hours of summer light stimulate vegetable growths 'til they outweigh proud California's. Fertile valleys wave seaward, only a few of which have been cleared of timber for cultivation. The greatest farming enterprise is Matanuska Valley, to which Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan dust storm refugees were transplanted in 1935 by the Federal Government. In a few years, amazingly husky growths of cabbages, squash, radishes and wheat popped up, while potatoes and turnips magnified themselves. Dwarf garden peas shot up like Jack's bean stalks. The season is too short for corn, tomatoes and cucumbers. These forty to eighty acre homesteads became rich storehouses which supplied much of Alaska's need. Such valleys challenge further cultivation after the battle is won,—the battle against mosquitoes that attack horses, cattle and humans. Veils must be worn in order to work at all. Farther south there are choice spots for pioneer homesteaders in the midst of good soil, timber, and berries, where coal can be picked up along the beach, fish caught in streams or in salt water bays, and moose sniped from the porch as they roam by.

Gardens are a botanical paradise, for flowers puff up to amazing proportions, the delphinium, for one, towers to 11 feet. Near 700 varieties of flowers grow over Alaska. Spring blooms in the woodlands are predominantly yellow, cheery messages from the slowly returning sun. They push through melting snow and sidle close to glaciers. The stream drenched forget-me-not spreads completely along the gulf coast; this glacier-blue blossom is rightfully chosen Alaska's "State Flower".

Even rain and snow precipitation adds up to a world record. In the States we rejoice that rain is nourishing the vegetation, but here it seems useless,—simply runs off the shallow top soil to the ocean and keeps muskeg alive. There's a story told about the first Presbyterian missionary in Southeast Alaska who engaged a Thlingit Indian woman as interpreter, for she spoke English well. He narrated the tale of Noah's Ark to prospective converts and waited for her translation. She was mute; he repeated it; again she remained glum. "Tell them the story," he requested. She answered, "We have lived here a long time and have seen so much rain, and we never have a flood. No, no, they won't believe that story".

A drenched buck private on guard duty coined this about the land of liquid sunshine:

where "it rains all day Sunday and clouds burst on Monday; no dust on the muskeg on Tuesday; a heavy dew Wednesday; no shadows on Thursday; we're amphibians on Friday, and have cold water showers on Saturday."

You've heard of muskeg? Well, you mus-kep-out-of-it, or you get muskeg madness. It's a mass of soaked sponge. It's stuff that looks dry yet can put a bucket of water into your shoes fast. It squeezes under every step—like walking on chocolate pudding, or freshly frosted devil's food cake. It's unfinished soil; only cranberries seem to love it. The water soaked crust of moss never gives the deep layers of humus a chance to dry. Alaska's 110,000 acres of muskeg are the natural habitat of peat, a potential resource, good for revitalizing soil; it becomes economical fuel, fertilizer, and disinfectant. Our Red Skins knew all about muskeg; in fact it's an Algonquin word. To a Cree it was maskek, to an Odjibway mashkig. It is really a lake holding up layers of decaying vegetable matter or bog;—in other words, a mud hole.

Very very late one Saturday night little Joe from Kokomo was found by his buddies—a Moses in the Muskeg. He had missed the straight and narrow over the murky moors of muskeg. The next morning while digging it out of his ears he apologized: "Well, I'm an old railroad man. Thought I knew the road but I must have missed the curve. It was a strange wet feelin', like a man feels when he's lyin' on the tracks and a train's a comin'."

This is the land where winter winds are wildest—with a wet sting, and the power of a thousand horses. Rain and snow fly horizontally. Then there's the cork screw variety, and the Taku off the glacier which pushes you, then turns around and slaps you and cuts off your breath. Some snowstorms appear as though all the world's eiderdown quilts were ripped open above and the whiteness feathers down to blanket us 'til every scene is a Christmas card.

East and west have a winter rendezvous in the north. In lower Alaska, the aenemic sun's glare simply rolls over a distant mound between sunrise and sunset. At the head of the Gulf, it pops up for a look-see, and skips the arctic shore completely. In Fairbanks, baseball fans stampede the ball park to cheer the first inning that starts in sunshine at midnight of June 21, the city's annual celebration of the summer solstice. In midwinter, street and shop lights shine all day, while in summer time, newspapers can be read the clock around.

Since the first prospectors reached Tanana River, sourdoughs have bet their dust and nuggets on the possible date of the Spring ice break. Nenana on the Tanana has become the center of the Alaska Ice Pool Classic—the Irish Sweepstakes of the Northland. The first organized ice pool took place in 1917 with but a \$500 purse; in 1939 it reached \$100,000. Thousands of cheechakos (newcomers) and sourdoughs, bus drivers and fishermen record their guess as to the second of the minute of the hour of the exact day the river will make its first move of that great spectacle of buckling crushing ice. An intricate system of wires attached to a bell and a clock in mid river is fastened to the bridge. April 20 has been the earliest break, May 15 the latest. Though exacting science of astrology and numerology have been tried, a hit or miss guesser is always winner.

Alaska's 75th American Birthday in October 1942 found her awakening to the realization she was a fully grown debutante, desired for her riches, beauty and position. During her adolescence, her potentialities had been developed by her guardian Uncle Sam, so that now she is the land of promise, the lure to adventure and possession. Comes the villain!—

the son of the Rising Sun. His long term interest now covets conquest. American money and manhood rush to her defense, lest she capitulate.

It was back in 1867 that the United States acquired from Russia her "Russian America" possession for \$7,200,000 and christened the territory Alaska, which was the Aleut's name for the mainland.

Peter the Great had sought an arctic passage to China, but in 1741 his navigator Vitus Bering, found fur bearing animals instead. A million ruble fur market was instantly opened to daring merchantmen who searched islands and coast, negotiated for sea otter pelts with natives, planted the Russian standard as they went, and shipped home as many as 2,000 skins on the first expedition. Sea otter pelts in the 1700s brought \$50 to \$60 each in Canton China,—and cost the Russians a few metal spikes plus blue glass beads for "comish".

Ambitious merchant Gragory Shelekof became the richest of Siberia's fur traders. Jealousy of the competing English traders inspired Shelekof to form a combine of independent traders to monopolize the fur trade. Emperor Paul formed the Russian American Company, and in 1795 sent Alexander Baranof to commence colonization. In 1779, in a 40-foot bidar, he arrived at Sitka, which site he selected for settlement. The first settlers were massacred during Baranof's absence. After several more years of obstructions by Thlingit natives, who loved their homeland, the Indians submitted to Russian domination. So at Sheetchah (Thlingit for "this is the best place"), was built a stout redoubt. The community of fishermen, builders, laborers, largely released prisoners, thrived under military discipline;—the Thlingits were still at the gates.

On a mushroom hill they named Baranof hill, on the site of the Thlingit Chief's house, was built "Baranof Castle", although Baranof himself never lived in it nor in the second one which replaced it. By 1865, the third Baranof Castle had become the scene of lavish hospitality, where internationally distinguished guests were received by the First Lady of Sitka. (In this "Castle" on Baranof Hill was the temporary USO Club during early 1943). A fine school system was developed, Orthodox churches were filled with beautiful ikons and treasures of the old world. Great ship building yards, an arsenal and foundry were among the accomplishments of this industrious group under leadership of efficient colonizers. During President Johnson's regime, in October 1867, a dreary ceremony was enacted before the Castle, at which the Imperial Russian grey Eagle left his flag staff perch to the American white headed Eagle.

Today still another flag flies over Alaska—golden stars of the Great Dipper and Polar Star on a field of blue, inspired by the constellations directly overhead. This design by little Benny Benson of Seward whose mother was Aleut was chosen in a Territorial wide high school contest seventeen years ago, as majestically conveying the spirit of this arctic land.



This series of story-letters is prepared and illustrated by Marie M. Struve of the USO North Pacific Area Office for use by American Service Men. Accurate data has been secured from authoritative sources, and mailing approval has been obtained from the American Military Censorship. We hope the folks at home will enjoy these "shorts" from "on location."



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church,
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor-Chaplain.

December 18, 1944

Monthly Report to the Board of National Missions Nov. 15 - Dec. 14th 1944.

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

We are happy to report some definite improvements in the Skagway Church. Our local townspeople are slowly coming around to taking their place in the church. Two pastoral letters sent out to the entire protestant constituency, as well as day by day house calls are beginning to change the picture. In 1938 this community was split and divided over a school board ~~dismissal~~ dismissal. Our Presbyterian Minister was on the Board and took a courageous but very unpopular stand, the church of course therefore suffered. Some of these folks are now starting to come back to the church, particularly a young Dentist and his wife who are good community leaders.

Another opportunity for real churchmanship in Skagway is to bring the remaining members of the Episcopal ~~Church~~ Church into closer communion with our Presbyterian fellowship. The local Episcopal Church has continued to hold together in spite of not having a resident Pastor for some time. Two lay readers have exerted real leadership. I have come to know one of these men very intimately through my Masonic affiliations and he is now actively working in our church. The other man is attending our services. With a view toward making these folks feel more at home, with the approval of the Session I have made the morning service more formal with a distinct emphasis on worship. The evening song service is informal not using the robed choir or the organ. If you have no objections, I am planning to write to the Episcopalian Bishop and invite ^{him} to use our sanctuary, rather than the Episcopal building when he visits Skagway.

You will notice some drop in attendance at our services in contrast to last months report. This is due to the fact that over 600 service men were transported out of Skagway on November 15th. We lost our Sunday School Superintendent and three of the young men who were teaching. At the present time I am taking charge of the Sunday School as well as teaching the three boys classes. Some of the towns folks thought the church "would fold up" when these loyal service men were moved out, but we are now getting the civilians to attend as well as the other army men who are still in the community. The new civilian Pastor is able to get army officers to attend church who were never present while the Army Chaplain was here.

Increasingly the thought comes to me as to how we need a resident Executive Secretary from the Board of National Missions to represent our church at large in Alaska. The ~~Protestant~~ Protestant people are alarmed at the inroads being made by Catholicism in areas where all the early work was done by our evangelical workers. Here in Skagway the Army built a hospital costing over a million and a half dollars. It is rumored that it is being turned over to the Catholic Church by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for a tuberculosis Sanatorium. The same thing happened with the Army Hospital in Kodiak. Our Masonic men here in Skagway are very concerned. I said I would write to you about it and see if our Church

could carry a project of that nature. With your approval I thought I would like to talk to the Episcopal Bishop with the possibility of both our communions taking some joint leadership. The Bureau of Indian Affairs would probably pay all the bills, but some organization must take charge of it.

Another area where we need a resident man with authority concerns our work at Haines and Klukwan. These two places in my opinion must be considered together. The new Haines cut-off, the road connecting Haines to the Alaskan Highway goes just outside of Klukwan. It is being discussed here in Skagway that Haines is going to boom after the war. Two government men who live here have been purchasing acreage at Haines. Fitzgerald and Lane, are U.S. government land agents but from my own observation they are personally interested in the future of Haines. Mr. Fitzgerald was in church yesterday with his wife and small son, but I understand he is going to N. Y. C. with plans for seeing our Board about the mission ~~property~~ property land at Haines. We have a very capable woman in Mrs. Maurstadt at Haines House and I understand she has given all this information to Mr. Tribus of the Board.

Concerning the Klukwan situation I have some very definite opinions on that field. On Verne Swanson's request as Chairman of Presbytery's Board of National Missions and following your instructions to assist Klukwan as well as Haines, I gave some thought to the field. When Miss. Stauffer asked me to assist her to get her work started I did not know that Paul Prouty would be able to help, but I am very happy to have him take over. To the natives it is probably a little confusing but I am sure that Mr. Prouty and Walter Soboleff will work it out.

I have just returned from Haines, the boat went over at 10 a. m. and got back to Skagway at 3:30 p. m. Mrs. Clyde Straub who is now working at Haines House, stayed with us at the Manse over the week-end and I assisted her in getting a number of parcels back over to Haines House. My secondary reason for going over was to see Mr. Prouty, but the Princeton-Hall had not arrived in Haines when my boat left at 2:00 p. m. On the boat from Haines to Skagway were two of the three Pentecostal women who are out at Klukwan. They were going down to Seattle for the holidays. It is unfortunate that Mr. Prouty did not meet these women, particularly Mrs. Beldon who is the leader of the work there. The other lady aboard was the negroe woman who assists them.

During my brief visit at Haines, I had a conference with Miss Stauffer and later with Mrs. Maurstadt. In my brief devotional for the entire staff at the dinner table I assured them of the church's interest in their work. How important it is to remember these good folks with our prayers, your very fine letters always sound that note.

Miss. Stauffer is quite upset concerning the work at Klukwan. She feels that Mr. Booth has embarrassed her before these Pentecostal workers. A month ago she was determined to go into Klukwan and with faith and courage, rebuild our work in this native village. At the present time she seems undecided and feels she should wait and have the Board smooth out what is at present a tense situation. She seemed to resent the intrusion of Mr. Prouty and Walter Soboleff into the picture but I tried to assure her it was probably the best policy.

Regarding Klukwan, I personally feel it would be a great mistake to sell this property to the Pentecostal folks. If it does not seem wise to use Miss. Stauffer in that situation, we ought ~~to~~ to look for a native couple. Klukwan is definitely tied up with Haines and with our investment at Haines House I do not think we can afford to have another Church on the field. Both Haines and Klukwan are too small to have the community divided religiously. If the Pentecostals get organized at Klukwan it will only be a matter of time until they get into Haines on a more permanent basis. I cannot see our church losing ground especially to a group who are opposed to most of the things we stand for.

Thank you for your very encouraging letter of December 5th and the usual fine cooperation. I would hesitate to have Miss. Stauffer go to Kasaan, she is doing a fine work at Haines.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Skagway, Alaska.

JAN 18 1945

Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

January 10, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

It has been a great privilege to minister here in Alaska to the townspeople and the service men during these Christmas holidays. The Church was crowded Christmas Sunday morning and Christmas Eve at the Candle-light Service by Sailors who were in port, the usual fine group of soldiers and the civilian townspeople who are increasingly taking their place in the church.

An indication of spiritual reawakening are the two checks enclosed from this National Missions supported church. The offering from the Children's Christmas Program \$ 52. 30 is to go to our work in war-torn China. On Christmas Eve, at the Candle-light Service we asked for an offering to go to The War-Time Service Fund, this check is for \$ 55. 69. An interesting story could be told of the soldiers and sailors at the Skagway Presbyterian Chapel contributing on Christmas Eve. to The War-Time Service Fund. This will tend to offset Walter Winchell's recent remark that Skagway Alaska was ^{to} go down on record "as one of the most wasteful spots in the war effort." (\$75.00 is forthcoming for Nat'l Missions.)

Other indications of spiritual growth is the contribution by The Woman's Church Auxiliary of \$5. 00 to our Dessert Mission and the desire on the part of the women to assume their benevolence quota from the Presbyterian Society. The Church purchased a new rug for the Manse and the Women bought a very fine floor lamp.

You will be interested in the weekly bulletin we are now publishing and mailing out to all the residents of the community. The Church buys the stock and the Army does the mimeographing for us. Our folks will become better informed churchmen through the Presbyterian items printed on the folders. You will notice word of the death of Axel Rasmussen, one of our finest officers and a fine Superintendent of Schools. His loss is great to the church and the community.

I am rendering the final statement concerning the expenses involved in bringing us to Skagway. Mr. H. L. Johnston very graciously paid me the \$306. 72 which represents half of the moving bill. This leave personal transportation and the other half of the moving bill for the Board. I hope the Board can handle the \$ 107. 91 which would clear up the matter. We are very happy that the church could assume part of the moving expense it is another step toward maturity.

Thank you for your usual fine support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell

JAN 10

Funds Expended in the moving of Harold F. Fredsell and Family, from Northville, Michigan to the First Presbyterian Church, Skagway, Alaska.

Freight:

Detroit to Seattle	\$ 305. 50	
Seattle to Skagway	192. 97	(498.47)
Handling in Skagway	10. 30	

Baggage:

Trunks to Seattle	52. 66
Export box (bedding)	27. 20
Excess baggage on boat	20. 55
Handling in Skagway	<u>4. 25</u>
Total	613. 43

$\frac{1}{2}$ of moving expense, received from Skagway Church.	306. 72	
Balance		306. 71

Transportation:

Northville to Seattle	219. 84
Seattle to Skagway	106. 36
	<u>632. 91</u>

Received from,

The Board of National Missions.	
Sept. 25th . . . \$275. 00	
Nov. 15th . . . 250. 00.	<u>525. 00</u>

Amount to be received	107. 91	 \$107. 91
---------------------------------	---------	---------------------

Personal Expenses:

Purchase of trunks and special clothing. . . .	145. 00
Above amount (\$145. 00) to be assumed by Harold F. Fredsell.	

The Church Must Lead In 1945



THE
WAY
TO A
NEW WORLD

I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."—Louise M. Haskins.

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN FAMILIES OF THE
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Chaplain-Pastor.

This is none other than the House of God,
Come Ye, apart and pray

Order of Worship, Sunday 7, January 1945 at 10:45 A.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE - "Agnus Dei." - - - Van Beethoven

SILENT PRAYER - "Cleanse thou me from secret faults."

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL RESPONSE - "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Congregation Standing)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION - - - - - " "

THE LORD'S PRAYER - - - - - " "

HYMN NO. 396 "Hail to the Brightness" - - - Hastings

RESPONSIVE READING - Selection 548

GLORIA PATRI (Congregation Standing)

HYMN No. 249 "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing" - - - How

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER - Dedicating the Christian and American Flags.

OFFERTORY SERVICE

Prayer: "All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee".

Organ Meditation - "Hope" Benedict

SERMON - "The Things that Abide."

A guide for the year ahead

HYMN no. 34 "Abide with Me." - - - - - Lyte

BENEDICTION

ALLSICA, Hymn No. 366

ORGAN POSTLUDE - "Coronation March" - - - - - Meyerbeer

THE VESPER SONG SERVICE OF FAMILIAR HYMNS

This evening at 7:30 p. m.

THE DEDICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FLAG AND THE NATIONAL COLORS

We dedicate these two beautiful flags to "the Glory of God"
and in honor of the young men now serving the Nation. They
are a gift from the service men stationed in Skagway and the
civilians in the employ of our country.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (by Pastor and People)

"Almighty God, King of Kings, Lord of lords, from whom
proceed all power and dominion, both in heaven and in earth;
mercifully, as a tender Father, consider thy children every-
where; pardon the iniquities of the nations, and bring them
speedily under thy benign reign of joy and peace. Be
especially mindful, O gracious Father, of those of our own
hearts and homes, in whose honor these flags are dedicated.
Enfold them in thy love, guard them by thy wisdom, protect
them by thy power; and if it be according to thy holy will
for them and us, restore them to us whole in body, unhurt in
mind, and pure in heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEWS OF THE SKAGWAY COMMUNITY

Following the Evening Vespers, a service of Holy Matri-
mony uniting Miss Ruth Sitton and Mr. Edward Holden will be
held in the Sanctuary. An informal reception will follow in
the social room adjoining the Church. A gracious invita-
tion is extended to their many friends by the bride and groom.
In lieu of the service and reception the usual "Open House"
at the Manse will be omitted this week.

We will want to remember in our prayers today, our good
friend, Mrs. James Cozian who is at present at the White
Pass Hospital. She is resting comfortably after a difficult
time. Mr. Bart Bowen is likewise at the hospital recovering
from the "flu."

Our community and the church will greatly miss Elder Axel
Hasmussen. Word has just been received of his death at a
Seattle Hospital. The highest honor we can confer as a Church
is to ordain anyone as an Elder, he well deserved the honor
and carried it with great dignity.

We understand that Mr. Kenneth Hannan has received comfort-
ing news that his son, S/Sgt. John K. Hannan is convalescing
from wounds received in battle. Let us return thanks.

REMEMBER TO SEND A SHORT NOTE HOME TO THE FOLKS

UNIVERSAL WEEK OF PRAYER—1945

The first full week in January each year is sponsored by the Federal Council's Department of Evangelism as the Universal Week of Prayer. The dates for the 1945 observance are January 7-14, and the general theme is "Pray—Thy Kingdome Come."



BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH.

Recommended for reading during January is The Gospel According to Matthew; during February, The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians.



THE BEGINNING POINT for Christian Stewardship is the Christian's unconditional surrender to Christ. From such a surrender flows the stewardship of time, talents and money.



BROTHERHOOD WEEK IN 1945

Announcement has been made by the National Council of Christians and Jews, sponsors of the annual event, that the 1945 observance of Brotherhood Week will take place from February 18-25.



A HINDU STUDENT studying in the Law College near Bombay, India, said to our missionary, "I want to thank you for the good English I acquired. What meant most to me were the new ideas I received from the teachings of Jesus."

"AMERICA'S PRAYER MINUTE"

Six p. m. daily—for the duration of the war. This was begun on New Year's Day, 1942.



THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT in Mexico sponsors a booklet called "Family Worship" which has done much to stimulate interest in religion in the home. 29,000 copies were circulated last year.



A MISSIONARY from Iran writes: "It has been like a life-saving sip of cool water to a thirsting soul to walk into a little town far from the sound of convoys, or the broadcast of European strife, to be taken to a home where a modern Cornelius welcomed me with almost the exact words from the Book of Acts, "Here is our little group. We want to know just what this message is that you are bringing to us people off in the corner of the world."



When Jesus was twelve years of age, he announced that he must be about His Father's business. We know that we, too, as God's sons and daughters and His faithful stewards, must be about His business. We are entrusted with many possessions. God has put into the world and into our hands—houses, lands, money, talent, beauty, bodies, and life itself. We are privileged to use and enjoy them, but always managing them well for the owner, God, to get His will done on earth.

MY CHURCH

*And so I come for deeper rest to this still room;
For here, the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control,
And from the silence, multiplied
By these still forms on every side,
The world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us, God, alone.*

—John Greenleaf Whittier.



New Year's Unguarded Frontier

But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The frontier of the Land of 1945 is an unguarded boundary. No sentry at midnight will challenge us for countersign. Have we good resolutions? We need not declare them. Memories, blessings, achievements, stored up treasures of the Old Year, and all the years—these we may carry over the boundry; no customs officials will rummage these keepsakes.

Let us repack before starting the journey of 1945. Let us lighten pack, leaving all contraband of conscience behind. Let us not give the Dark Mile of yesteryear one backward glance, remembering the words Longfellow heard by the little chapel: "Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again." With a prayer for God's forgiveness for the past, and for courage and hope, let us go to meet 1945. May it justify our saying: "Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord."



WELCOME!

This is the House of God; enter it to find comfort, strength, and peace; depart to serve in Christ's name.

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL

First Presbyterian Church

Skagway, Alaska.

Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Chaplain -Pastor

* * * * *

WELCOME FRIEND: In Christ's name we welcome you to this Church; to its work and worship; to its comfort and service for others. Within the Father's House let no one feel himself a stranger.

* * * * *

Order of worship, Sunday 31 December 1944 at 10:45 A.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE

SILENT PRAYER - "Let the peace of God rule in your heart."

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL RESPONSE - "Holy, Holy, Holy." (Congregation standing)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION " "

THE LORD'S PRAYER " "

HYMN NO. 8 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Holden

RESPONSIVE READING - Selection 522

GLORIA PATRI (Congregation standing)

HYMN NO. 31 "Sun of my Soul." - Keble

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SERVICE

Prayer: "All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee."

Organ Meditation

Choral Anthem

SERMON - "And the Shepherds Returned."

HYMN NO. 73 "Take the Name of Jesus with You." Baxter

BENEDICTION

ALLELUIA, Hymn No. 300

ORGAN POSTLUDE

* * * * *

THE VESPER SONG SERVICE OF FAMILIAR HYMNS

This evening at 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Gunnar Matsen at the Piano

The Pastor preaches on "Tomorrow's World." This subject is being considered across the nation, particularly by Dr. Walter H. Judd a former medical missionary in China and now a member of the United States Congress

NEWS OF THE SKAGWAY COMMUNITY

Another Skagway boy we were glad to see home for the holidays was Corp. Robert Selmer. Word comes that A/Sgt. John K. Hannan has been wounded, you will want to write to him at 210 Repl. Co. T. 8, APO 551, 1/2 PM., New York, N.Y. Merle (Dinty) Diporel has been operated on, send him a greeting, ASN 39950636 577th Material Sq. 377th Ser. Grp. Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C.

The usual "Open House" at the Lanse following the evening service will this week become a New Year's Eve watchnight Program. Table games and festivities of the season will be enjoyed with the ringing of the church bells at Midnight. You are cordially invited to attend, make a short visit or spend the evening with us.

Plan to be present at the choir rehearsal on Thurs. evening at 7:45 p.m. We have heard some fine praise of the choir and the splendid Christmas Eve Carol Service. With the large congregation present, our offering to the War Time Service Fund amounted to \$76.10. The Sunday School offering on Saturday evening made possible our gift to China Relief to the extent of \$52.30. These are the usual fine responses to the appeals of the Skagway Church. Well done!

It was a grand sight to see so many Sailors as well as the usual fine turn out of Soldiers in church on Sunday morning and evening. Many of the boys were invited to share Christmas Day dinner and other meals, let us keep up this fine spirit of Christian hospitality.

As our little bulletin goes to press we have heard that our good friend Miss Ruth Sitton is in the Army Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery as we enjoy having her worship with us each week.

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE A SHORT NOTE TO THE FOLKS

KEEPING THE FAITH

If our Christian profession does not find expression in the way we use our possessions, our faith in Christ and our relationship to His church are in danger. A Christian's relationship to possessions is critically important. One is not really Christian until getting, spending, saving, and giving are committed to the will of God. The dedication of possessions to Christ puts God in first place in our lives.

PEACE.—The public mind must see that peace is a by-product of a process undertaken by men with faith in a universe rooted and grounded in the love God has toward all peoples; by men with goodwill as the ruling spirit and motive of their lives; by men who, as neighbors and citizens, work to establish human relations everywhere upon good-will and justice.

"When the world is at its worst, the church must be at its best."

AN INTERESTING PROJECT at the Agricultural Institute, Allahabad, India, is a day nursery for the children of village women. These mothers are laborers on the farms as grass cutters, weeders, etc. Hitherto, small children and babies were either left alone at home or taken to the fields where they were at the mercy of flies and snakes.

An emergency law has been passed in Mexico that makes it obligatory for everyone between the ages of eighteen and sixty, who is capable, to teach another to read and write this year.

O my son, my son
I know but little
the path thou goest.
But lo!
There is God
who made
heaven and earth.
Stretch out
thy hand to Him!

PRAYER

Help us to rebuild the world for more splendid lives than ours; add wisdom to the ardour of the young, and loving kindness to the musings of the old; make our eyes aware of things too gentle to proclaim themselves; give us emotions far beyond the fret of nerve; free us from fear of our own brothers, and from the triple course of greed, intolerance and vainglory.

Lift the dark cloud of war from our future, and grant comfort to all quiet kindly folk who carry peace in their hearts amidst the stress of conflict; strengthen them also to endure what may befall.

Bring down the tyrant; befriend the victims of injustice and equate the reward of labor nearer to the needs of men; accustom us to work, not for the snatched profit, but for the common good and for the planned destiny of mankind.

Give patience to those who wait restlessly for this, and hope to those who have ceased to believe that it will come; and fill our hearts with faith in a Kingdom of Heaven which our children's children may some day find on earth. Amen.

James Hilton.

*The Lord is in His Temple . . . Silence is Becoming the House of God.
Bow Your Head and Say a Prayer.*



The Gift and the Star

If the gift you bring be a gift of gold
To warm a child when the night is cold,
(And who warms a child warms Christ)
You will find a star to guide your feet,
And though it lead down the meanest street,
You shall not miss the tryst.

Or if frankincense as a gift you bring
To help some soul in his worshipping
(For frankincense is prayer)
The gift that answers another's call
At length above your own altar tall
Shall tell you He is there.

Or if it be myrrh in your hand you bring,
(Though myrrh is a sacrificial thing)
Your gift need not be sad.
(The soldier gave it in no-man's-land.
He sought a gift, and the gift at hand
Was the only gift he had.)

These gifts are as old as the old Year One,
(With these were all Christmas gifts begun
By the Wise Men from afar)
Kindness and Worship and Sacrifice
Still doth He will, bequeath, devise,
And guides them with His Star.

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska

Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Chaplain-Pastor

Order of Worship

Christmas Sunday, 24 December 1944, 10:45

ORGAN PRÆLUDE - "Christmas Idyl" - - - - - Dann
SILENT PRAYER - "O Come Let Us Adore Him."
CALL TO WORSHIP - The Congregation Standing
CHORAL RESPONSE - "Holy, Holy, Holy" " " "
PRAYER OF INVOCATION - " " "
THE LORD'S PRAYER - " " "
HYMN NO. 62 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks." - Tate
RESPONSIVE READING - Selection 566
GLORIA PATRI -. The Congregation Standing
HYMN NO. 246 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go." - Matheson
THE PASTORAL PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERTORY SERVICE
Prayer: "What Gifts Of Love, O Master,
Can I Bring?"
Organ Meditation - "Manger Song." - Harrison
Vocal Offering
SERMON - "Let us now, go even unto Bethlehem."
HYMN NO. 61 "O Little Town of Bethlehem." - Brooks
AMERICA, Hymn 366
ORGAN POSTLUDE - "Noel, Noel." - - - - - Rodgers

This Evening.

The Christmas Eve. Candle-Light Carol Service
11:00 p.m. to Midnight

"Except the Christ be born again tonight
In dreams of all men, saints and sons of shame,
The world will never see His Kingdom bright."

NEWS OF THE SKAGWAY COMMUNITY

We are very glad to welcome home for the holidays two of the Skagway boys, A/C. Lyman Reynoldson and Pfc. Eugene Roger Dahl. Our Church sent Christmas greetings to forty three of the Skagway boys.

To the Service Men and townspeople, Chaplain Clyde F. Straub and Warren Wagner sent Christmas remembrances. Their temporary address is c/o U. S. Army, Norman Wells N.W.T. Canada.

It is the hope of the Church Officers that this weekly bulletin will supply a real need in our community. Please give all notices to the Pastor by Wednesday of each week.

Many of the folks have mentioned how nice the Church looks for the holiday season. We appreciate the fine work of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Wallace, Major John Hezlep, Jr. Mrs. Guy Sipprell and the efforts of Dr. Polley.

We enjoyed having Bill Feero home on his sick leave. Drop him a line at the Baxter Gen. Hospital, Ward 23-12, Spokane 12, Wash. During this Christmas season Elder Axel Rasmussen is in a Seattle hospital. We wish him Godspeed and hope he returns soon.

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE A SHORT NOTE TO YOUR FOLKS

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 325?

Three hundred and ninety three independent and tax-supported colleges and universities normally enroll seventy per cent of the students in this country. As these schools of higher education are not Church-related they make little or no provision for the students' religious faith and life. The Presbyterian Church answers the spiritual needs of these young people through the Westminster Foundations. Foundations have been established at sixty-eight centers. Three hundred and twenty-five other colleges and universities still need a similar ministry from us.



Fifty cents will maintain Presbyterian Indian work in the Southwest for one minute.



A survey made sometime ago revealed that approximately half the students in two of our largest Presbyterian theological seminaries came from colleges and universities where we have Westminster Foundation programs.



Eighteen months ago—no people, no town, no church; today 100,000 people, 18 Church services, and 25 Sunday schools each Sunday! This is the story of the United Church Ministry of Richmond, Calif., where the Presbyterian War-Time Service Fund provides leadership and financing.



A chaplain at Fort Riley, Kans., writes; "My brother chaplains who are Presbyterian never cease to rave about the support the Commission gives them."

INDIAN YOUTH

The Board of National Missions maintains six schools or homes for Indian young people. Two are in Alaska, four on the mainland of the United States.

Sheldon Jackson School, Sitka, Alaska; *Haines House*, Haines, Alaska; *Tucson Indian Training School* and *Ganado Mission High School*, both in Arizona; *Dwight Indian Training School*, at Vian, Oklahoma; *Rosamond B. Goddard Home* at North Fork, California.



Stanley Evans, Sunday school missionary in Wyoming, writes to approximately 100 boys in the service who were formerly in his Sunday school or vacation Bible schools. One boy, now stationed in Australia, wrote asking him when next he visited the Sunday school he had attended, to have the boys and girls sing, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."



HONORS TO CHOCTAW. To Choctaw Presbytery (Oklahoma) goes the honor of being first to go "over the top" in the 1944-1945 War-Time Service Fund. Choctaw Presbytery not only exceeded its 3 per cent minimum quota, but went far over the extra 20 per cent asked for postwar reconstruction and rehabilitation—reaching as it did 168 per cent of its quota.



Include a Christmas gift for the missionary work of your church.



Through the work of the War Service Unit of the Board of National Missions, twenty-five churches have been brought back into service or new churches organized in new communities.

Lord, teach us to pray—to be sincere and honest with our own hearts as well as to be true to Thee. Show us what things we really need and grant that we may be willing to pay the price to have them. Amen.

JAN 22 1945

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

January 15, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Please accept my appreciation to yourself and your fine staff for the lovely Christmas greeting and the helpful book by Dr. T. G. Glover. As missionaries on the field we have a fine example of "A Disciple" in the work you are rendering for His Church and the Unit of Work in Alaska.

Two problems confront the work at Skagway which I would appreciate your counsel on this month. One concerns the war program as it is being carried on here in Skagway. The Army work in Skagway has been criticized as being very wasteful and somewhat inefficient. I understand that Walter Winchell has reported it "as one of the most wasteful spots in the war effort." In lieu of this the townspeople are very critical of the army and the entire war effort. Profiteering is rampant and everyone is trying to get rich on the expense of the army. Our church folks are involved in this as well as others. In keeping with "The World Order Movement" I am setting aside a mid-week meeting during the Lenten period when we will study the issues of "Victory and Peace." With the Skagway people all trying to make money at the expense of the war, I feel that the Church must speak out against it. Frankness in this case might effect Church attendance but I feel it is one of the issues on which the church must speak. I would appreciate your mature judgment in this matter.

The other matter is that I feel that the Skagway Church has for too long a time depended upon the financial giving of a few aside from the support of our Board. Mr. E. A. Rasmuson of The Bank of Alaska has been a tremendous influence in the church financially and otherwise. We get along very well and I believe he has confidence in my judgment. In one of our many talks I expressed myself by saying that I thought the Skagway people did not appreciate the church because it cost them so little. He agreed in part and asked me my solution, I suggested the Every Member Canvass Plan of our Church. With considerable feeling he told me how much he was opposed to it although he agreed it had value. Part of the picture is that he does not want to be embarrassed by letting folks know how much he gives.

Mr. and Mrs. Rasmuson will not return to Skagway until March. It is my thought if you are willing that the annual appeal for funds be handled the latter part of February, having the matter all cleared up before they return to Alaska. There might be some opposition but I feel this is the year to introduce it while funds are plentiful.

If this plan meets your approval would you be kind enough to have the office of The General Council at #156 send me direct the full assortment of supplies for The Every-Member Canvass for 150 people. Likewise if your offer still holds I would like to receive 100 sets of dual offering envelopes from The Hubbard Press. We do not need them specially printed, if they just read "Presbyterian Church" that is sufficient.

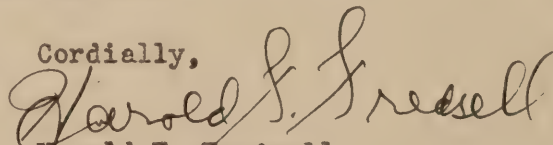
I have been looking forward to receiving the request from your office for a budget from the Skagway Church. This will bring the matter of The Canvass, Offering Envelopes and the whole question of Church financing before the Trustees. Our good folks here are perfectly content to just keep on going as is. They talk in terms of forty people who carry the church program instead of confronting the four hundred townspeople to support the one and only functioning protestant church. Our weekly bulletins are being mailed out to the entire community aside from the Roman Catholic folks.

We have suffered a great loss in the death of Elder Axel Rasmussen, the Superintendent of the Skagway Public School. He went to Seattle shortly before Christmas for treatment, his death came very sudden it was probably due to cancer. For the time being until a substitute can be found I have been asked to teach mornings up at the High School. I have two history classes which gives me a wonderful opportunity to present the Christian view of life. It gives me a valuable contact with the High School young people I have not had to date.

One of my finest Trustees Mr. James Cozian the local baker is likewise going to be missed from the Church. Due to his wife's health he is going back to the States. Losing these two good men aside from the soldiers who continue to go out each week makes Skagway a down hill fight.

The weekly bulletins are well received by the townsfolks, it will revive interest in the church. A sound program of church financing will likewise remind the community of its responsibility. We hope to hear from you soon in regard to these matters.

Cordially,


Harold F. Fredsell

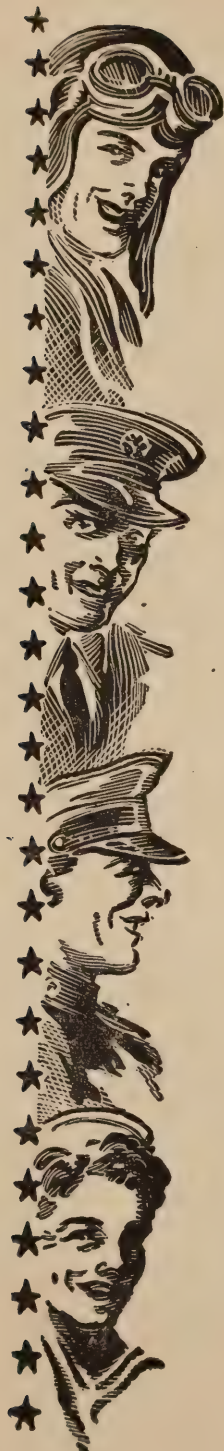
A Prayer

O God, who hast given me the gift of life, reveal to me its deeper meaning amid all the turmoil and confusion of the days in which we live. Not only on the far horizons of life but amid its daily struggle I would sense thy presence and catch glimpses of thy purpose. Make strong my faith that, amid the whirlpools of current events I may know that thou art still the Great Unde-
feated Father of all men, who makest even the wrath of men to praise thee.

Preserve me, I pray, from bitterness against men who seem to be going wrong, bitterness against men who disagree with me, bitterness against the social order and the blindness of men and nations.

Help me to walk the paths of peace. Help me to rule my spirit and make it a disciplined instrument before thee. Open my mind to understand the truth now hidden from my sight. Put the law of kindness on my tongue and of forgiveness in my heart. Make me patient in these days and strong in faith and courage regardless of whatever happens to our outward resources or physical well-being.

Above all else I would come closer to Jesus Christ as the great Comrade of all who walk in troubled days, that "above the howling senses' ebb and flow," I may find in him the lord of my soul. Amen.



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL

First Presbyterian Church

Skagway, Alaska

Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Chaplain-Pastor

"This is the day which the Lord hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it." Ps. 118:24

Order of Worship, Sunday, 14 January 1945 at 10:45 A.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE - "Largo" - - - - - Mendel

SILENT PRAYER - "Be strong in the Lord and in the
power of His might."

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL RESPONSE - "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Congregation Stands)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION - - - - - " "

THE LORD'S PRAYER - - - - - " "

HYMN NO. 47 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past." Watts

GLORIA PATRI - - - - - (Congregation Stands)

HYMN NO. 282 "Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare." Newton

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SERVICE

Prayer: "All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee."

Organ Meditation: "O For the Wings of a Dove." - - -

Choral Anthem: - - - - - Mendelssohn

SERMON - "Prayer And The World's Need." - - - - -

HYMN NO. 283 "Sweet Hour of Prayer." - - - - - Valford b

AMERICA, Hymn No. 336

ORGAN POSTLUDE - "The Heavens Are Telling." - Haydn

BENEDICTION

THE VESPER SONG SERVICE OF FAMILIAR HYMNS

This evening at 7:30 P. M.

Let us know your favorite hymn which will be broadcast
over station KSNY

NEWS OF THE SKAGWAY COMMUNITY

Each Sunday evening, after the Vesper Song Service
"Open House" is held at the Manse opposite the Church.
The Pastor and Mrs. Fredsell extend a cordial invitation
to the Service Men and the townfolks to share
in this friendly fireside get-together.

Last Sunday the officers of the Church voted to purchase
a permanent Roll of Honor of the boys from the
Skagway community which will be dedicated to the memory
of Elder Axel Rasmussen. As Superintendent of the
Skagway Schools he was the beloved teacher of these boys
who are now serving the nation.

Will the parents and friends of the boys from Skagway
who are now serving in the armed forces please give to
the following committee, a slip of paper bearing the correct
spelling of the boys' names as it should appear on
the Roll of Honor. Committee: Mr. James Cozian, Mrs.
Guy Sipprell and the Pastor H. F. Fredsell.

Thursday, 7:45 P. M. weekly choir rehearsal. During
the winter months the choir will meet at the Manse.

Many have expressed the thought that our weekly
bulletin will be very helpful to the community. Please
give notices and news to the Pastor by Wednesday of each
week.

USE THIS SPACE TO SEND A SHORT NOTE TO THE FOLKS

THE CHAPEL

On Sundays, hundreds of chapel bells in army camps throughout the nation call our soldiers to worship.

Regardless of the branch of religion, a soldier can find peace, solace, and guidance in the little chapel.

There are many of these chapels and they mean much to our boys and girls in uniform. The services are typical of those in civilian churches, with each branch of religion having its own chapel and specific time for worship.

The chaplain is often referred to as being the soldier's "father," and he is very worthy of the title. Solving personal problems, acting as counselor, and obtaining emergency furloughs for the soldiers, are a few of the many duties he performs. Even on the battlefield the chaplain can be found giving much-needed comfort to his soldiers.

On the battlefronts it is a little different, as is indicated in a letter from a private somewhere in the South Pacific:

"The chapel out here is primitive in style, but as beautiful as any House of God anywhere. It is made of rough tree wood with a thatched roof, a crude altar and wooden benches. Music comes from an old piano.

"But a man can go there and find the peace and contentment he desires. Even in the midst of all this battle and strife the chapel is a sanctuary of kindness.

warmth and love, a lasting symbol of God's kingdom."

The motto of the American Junior College for Women in Beirut, Syria, is: "To strive, to seek, to find."

A CALL TO YOUTH

The youth of our land responded to the call to the colors, and the enemies who would have destroyed our freedom and denied our faith will be beaten, and the war won. If it is to be the last war, the youth of our land must respond to the call of the Cross, maintain our freedom and enthrone our faith, until at last man, the wide world round, realizes the peace-makers are indeed the sons of God.

—Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DAY

In many Protestant denominations, the last Sunday of January is observed as Young People's Day. On this Sunday, which also marks the opening of Youth Week, more and more churches are coming to give recognition to young people and their place in the life and work of the Church.

God still calls individuals. The High Calling of God to individuals is to Christ-likeness. It is a call upward to higher levels of Christian life.



"I WOULD BE TRUE"

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all...the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

FEB 27 1945

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor- Chaplain.

February 17, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Thank you for your helpful comments on my January report. Your trip to the West I am sure will strengthen the missionary movement. Enclosed you will find my February report; an interesting letter on the timely importance of the Skagway Church to the Service Men; a financial report on the funds I have received from the War-Time Service Fund and a weekly bulletin. I have not heard anything further on the proposal of allowing the Skagway Church \$25.00 a month for a "Hospitality House" program with War-Time Service Funds. It is difficult to know how long the soldiers will remain in Skagway but it is thought at least up to the summer months. Miss. Koerner very kindly informed me of the allowance to restore the furniture etc. and I will write later in connection with this. The Army has been mimeographing our bulletin each week, with the church supplying the stock from our supply house.

A very important matter that needed Christian statesmanship came to the fore this month in Skagway or more particularly in Juneau. The million and a half dollar Army built hospital in Skagway was turned over to the Dept. of Indian Affairs for a tuberculosis Sanatorium. The Dept. of Indian Affairs was looking for some church group to staff and administer the Hospital. It was being discussed at the Legislature meeting in Juneau. I wired Willis Booth expressing my concern and also contacted Bishop Bentley of the Episcopal Church suggesting the possibility of joint-Presbyterian-Episcopalian leadership. The Skagway Masons are very opposed to the mounting power and control of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Booth had Mr. Prouty tell me that we could do nothing about it, Bishop Bentley was not anymore encouraging. The result is that on April 1st, the Roman Catholic Church will open this splendid hospital housing between 150 and 300. (predominantly Indians from So. Eastern Alaska who have been under Presbyterian influence.) The only thing left to do is to request the privilege of holding religious services for the Protestants. This will be somewhat of a problem as the Hospital is three miles out of town. Another straw in the wind is that the local Roman Catholic Mission has received from the Army, some twelve or fifteen large wooden barracks for the nominal sum of \$ 1.00.

I hope when you were in Skagway that you had the opportunity of seeing the extensive Indian Art Museum collected by the late Elder Axel Rasmussen. It is considered one of the finest, the most extensive and costly collection in the whole of Alaska. He formerly had it at Arangel when he was Superintendent of Schools of that city.

There is considerable conjecture as to what will happen to this collection. It will be difficult for the heirs to find a ready market for it. Some of the townspeople would like to keep it in Skagway, but it would need a caretaker and a fire-proof building. I wonder if we could possibly handle it at the Sheldon Jackson School? Perhaps we could find someone who would be interested in purchasing it for the school if it is placed up for sale. I am having dinner for Ned Johnson tomorrow night an Indian boy who was adopted by Mr. Rasmussen. Ned is a product of Haines House and Sheldon Jackson School. At present he is in the Army and whether he is legally adopted is not certain. The two brothers of our former Elder and his sister reside at Oxford, Indiana and are members of the Presbyterian Church. Perhaps you would like to write to Mr. Yaw concerning this collection and in the meantime I will follow it up on this end. *Collection valued between \$20,000. - + \$30,000. -*

*see 7/1/20
To Fredsell
12/1/20
3/17/21
1442*

You will notice on my report that I had the great privilege of spending four days along the Alaska Military Highway. I have been appointed Auxiliary Chaplain of the North West Service Command with responsibilities at Haines, Skagway and the Section Houses along the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. The Service Command Chaplain arranged transportation permits for me to travel with Mr. Bingle from Whitehorse to Fairbanks. I intend to give you a detailed report of my trip and pay tribute to the outstanding work and Christian effectiveness of our Civilian Chaplain, Bert J. Bingle. While in Fairbanks, awaiting flying orders, I spoke to the Session of that Church and the mid-week fellowship supper group. It was pleasant to renew acquaintance again with Miss. Gertrude Bechtel. As Auxiliary Chaplain it was possible for me to return to Whitehorse in an army transport plane. Messrs, Bingle, Champlin and myself preached at different camps at all hours and therefore covered the area more thoroughly than our Chaplain could possibly do alone. It was a thrilling experience to see our church serving a new frontier.

My regards to your ~~staff~~ staff, we look forward to seeing you in April.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell.

77-271005

Ag-SF Redistrib. Station,
Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
15 January, 1945.

The Minister and Chaplain,
First Presbyterian Church,
Skagway, Alaska.

Dear Minister and Chaplain:

The content of this letter came to me while I was attending Church yesterday. My thoughts drifted back to the days when I was stationed in Skagway. I entered that little "metropolis on the 29th day of September 1942, a green and lonesome soldier. I thought to myself what a dismal place to live; when will I ever see home again. So from that day on I started my career in the Army.

At this point, I want to confess something which you might, as a Minister and Chaplain, look upon as something lacking in my life. I never attended church regularly before coming into the Army though I did join a church after being married. After that I did go some, but not like I should.

To continue, after two or three months in Skagway, I got acquainted with companions who were the kind of fellows whom anyone would want to associate with. Some of them attended your church which, up to the present time, I had never attended. So one Sunday we all went. That was one Sunday I wrote home about. I began to realize then what a ~~x~~ big mistake I had made of not going before the war. There in that church from that day on I met new people as well as soldiers. I found comfort in my times of loneliness and distress. Finally I became a member of the choir. My church attendance became more regular. I found after that, that being in Skagway wasn't so bad after all.

In summing up,- I want to thank all the members of that little "church" who gave me the opportunity of finding a happy life even though it was only temporarily in Skagway. I say unto every soldier who is now stationed in Skagway to attend church regularly. I say this because I know how lonesome I got and how the church helped me to forget my lonesomeness. I am deeply grateful for every hour that I spent singing in the choir or being one of the congregation.

If you see fit to take the time to read this to the congregation, I would be grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Cpl. Joseph F. Dryden
Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

(a copy of the original letter.)

FEB 27 1945

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN PROTESTANT CHAPEL.
 First Presbyterian Church.
 Skagway, Alaska.
 Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor- Chaplain.

February 19, 1945.

Funds used against War-Time Service Account.
 \$ 137. 10 received through Clear Lake, Michigan Summer Conference. 1944.

"Open House" program at the Manse

following the evening Vesper Service on Sundays.
 Light refreshments served, average attendance 26.

Oct. I week	\$ 5. 00	
" Soldiers Choir Party . . .	5. 00	
Nov. four weeks	20. 00	
Dec. four weeks	20. 00	
Christmas Tree Decorating Party.	5. 00	
January four weeks	20. 00	
February four weeks	20. 00	
		95. 00

Correspondence and follow up letters,

Christmas greetings	2. 62	
Letters to service men (air-mail)	2. 00	
To parents of boys in Skagway	. 60	5. 22

Christmas Day

" Dinners for 7 service men	9. 00	
" Presents " " " "	10. 40	19. 40

New Year's Eve Watch Night Program

Refreshments, prizes etc.	6.00.	6. 00
-----------------------------------	-------	-------

Sunday Dinners for 11 Service Men

We plan to invite two boys each week.		11. 00
---	--	--------

Total to date . . . \$ 136. 62

Respectfully submitted,

Harold F. Fredsell
 Harold F. Fredsell

APR 6 1945



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

March 18, 1945

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed you will find my report for my work in Skagway up to March 15th, as well as a contribution to "The Board of National Missions" for \$ 62. 00. This is for the fiscal year 1944-45 and I hope it is received on time to be so credited.

Our big project for the month of March has been the launching of the Lenten "Church-Night" program. We have followed somewhat a suggestion made by The Board of Christian Education under The World Order Movement for weekly discussions of Christian Citizenship. Preparations were made for forty, our officers expected ten, the first night we had sixty on the second 74.

From the standpoint of leadership the most fruitful work this month has been the ground work done of a system of church financing. Our officers are opposed to "The Every-member Canvass", I therefore have dropped the term but we are using the same general approach. Enclosed is a copy of our budget and the appeal which went out. From early indications there will be a good response. We were happy to receive the forty boxes of envelopes ordered by the Board from The Hubbard Press. My original intention was to mail out the boxes to every constituent hence my order of 100, in as much as we have just received 40, I am mailing them out only to those who have pledged.

On my trip to the section houses of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, I visited briefly and contacted 37 men, leaving with them copies of "Today" "The Link" and left over Sunday School papers and quarterlies. An important field of additional work will be the visiting and conducting of services at the new Hospital for Tubercular patients. Although this is under Roman Catholic leadership I have already requested the privilege of conducting services which I feel will be granted. At present the plan is to move many of the residents from Hoonah to Skagway for hospitalization. In my opinion of the 200 expected patients at the hospital a great majority will have already come under the influence of the Presbyterian Church. The hospital being three miles out of town will present a transportation problem.

We are pleased to know that the Committee on Camp and Church Activities has granted the Skagway Church \$25. 00 a month for program expenses. Each Tuesday evening in our Lenten program we have had between 15 and 25 service men for supper at the church. Last Sunday evening after the Vesper Service we had 39 folks at the Manse afterward for our fellowship program, more than half of this number were service men. It will be helpful to know that we will receive some aid in entertaining these men who appreciate the contribution of the church both religiously and socially. Although the men are being withdrawn from Skagway we still have a considerable number and it will be summer or fall probably before most of them are out of here. The officers of the church are carefully weighing where we can best use the \$ 300. 00 allocated to restore the Skagway Manse. Redecorating is needed, the floors should be sanded and refinished and some items of furniture should be replaced. We will write concerning this matter in the near future.

Thank you for your usual fine cooperation. We are looking forward to seeing you at Presbytery.

Cordially,
Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor. .

MAY 28 1945



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

May 15, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Congratulations to you on the degree that was conferred, as one of the able Statesmen of the Church you are worthy of the honor. It was very delightful for Mrs. Fredsell and myself to have had you as our guest and to follow up your visit to Skagway with those helpful days in Hydaburg.

You are probably interested to know about the progress we are making in our efforts to secure a church social and recreational building. After a number of conferences with army officers and officials from the Reconstruction Finance Company I have been promised a building known as The Port Recreational Hall. This is the finest building for our purposes in Skagway. Built as a recreational building it has a fully equipped stage, two wash rooms, adequate kitchen space and a high ceiling. It is approximately the size of our present Church building. The evaluation would be in the neighborhood of \$ 30, 000. 00. I am quite confident we will get the building for nothing or possibly one dollar. We will have to move it and build a new foundation under it. The lot immediately in back of the church has already been purchased and we have cleared the property of an old house and four big trees. Our people are out this week to raise at least a \$ 1000. 00 toward the project. I hope that you have been able to secure the \$ 500. 00 that was originally promised toward the basement for recreational purposes. This is to fine an opportunity to pass up.

Recently I received a \$ 75. 00 check from ~~The~~ Committee on Camp and Church Activities marked "appropriation from March 1st \$ 25. a month. I realize that this is to cover the expenses connected with the Manse Hospitality House program. About a month ago I received from your office a \$ 50.00 check which I thought was for the same purposes. Now I am wondering if that \$ 50.00 was not for the salary adjustments that you spoke about. I have not received any increase from the Church possibly due to this building project which is now under way. With the extremely high cost of living here in Skagway we find it very difficult to make ends meet. Kindly let me know concerning this \$ 75. 00 check, I have not cashed it and will wait until I hear from your office.

On the basis of Miss Koerner's letter concerning the \$ 300. 00 which was appropriated for reconditioning the Skagway House due to its war-time use we are proceeding accordingly. To date \$ 42. 00 worth of wall paper has been ordered from Montgomery Wards, floor varnish and paint to the extent of \$ 23.00 and repairing the washing machine and parts needed about \$ 15. 00 . We are drawing on our own church funds with the understanding that when the bills are presented with our paid vouchers included, the Skagway Church treasury will be compensated accordingly.

In my last monthly report I enclosed my personal check to cover two rolls of film as well as some K828 Kodachrome. I asked Miss Koerner if she would be kind enough to pass on this order to Mr. Thorne's department. To date I have not heard anything concerning the order. Enclosed is the number of the film needed for my movie camera # 382, a 50 ft magazine in the 16 mm width. I had hoped to take this to Sitka with me for the Young Peoples Conference but whenever it comes it will be appreciated.

We will leave probably on Saturday for Sitka with eight of our High School young people as delegates. A ninth boy had planned to attend but on Saturday he was ~~drowned~~ drowned at a nearby lake. His funeral services will be held tomorrow evening from the church. Word has just come to me that one of my newly elected Trustees is leaving for Anchorage to work for the Alaska Railroad. You probably remember Mr. Jess Wallace who was a lay reader of the Episcopal Church and whose wife sang in our choir. We will miss the both of them tremendously. These losses press heavily upon our hearts.

Mrs. Fredsell joins me in sending our best wishes to you as your interpret Alaska to the folks at home.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold F. Fredsell

JUL 2 1945

*Sheldon Jackson School
Sitka. Alaska*



June 14, 1945

Dear Friend:

We have just returned from the Alaskan Young Peoples Summer Conference held at our Sheldon Jackson Mission, School, Sitka Alaska. A splendid group of young people were there from the various towns, Indians, Eskimoes and whites in one happy family. We had nine delegates from Skagway with both of us on the faculty and Margaret Ann at the age of two attending her first Conference. Our week at "Sitka the Beautiful" was very enjoyable. We will never forget the awe-inspiring sunsets seen through the many islands that surround Sitka as you look out across the broad Pacific.

In April we attended the meeting of Presbytery held at the fishing village of Hydaburg. On both trips we used the Alaskan jitney, a sixty foot gas boat. The first trip was on our mission boat "The Princeton-Hall" and to the conference we went en-route by way of the fishing work boat "S.J.S.II". Picking up delegates we visited ten of the towns and fishing villages. It brought to us a greater appreciation of the mission program of the church. In many of them there was but the one church where it had lifted the level of life tremendously in the forty years of Christian leadership.

Here in Skagway our church has just acquired from the Army a building valued at \$ 30,000.00, formerly known as "The Port Recreation Hall." It is to be our new Church House Community Center. The fully equipped stage, lounge hall and auditorium will fill a real need. With the closing of the USO most of the equipment has been transferred to our new center. This enlarged unit will serve the remaining soldiers and the townspeople. The response has been splendid, our church people went out on house to house calling and in one week raised the necessary funds for acquiring the property, moving the building and altering it to our needs. We anticipate a busy summer and fall program.

Our work with the service men has been a very satisfying experience. Many have been surprised and grateful to find an active church in the heart of an Army Post. Their letters and continued friendship has meant a lot to us. While we were at Summer Conference two of the young "Medics" conducted the morning services and a Chaplain's Clerk with the Director of the USO led the evening Vesper Hour. We enjoy having three or four of the soldiers every Sunday for dinner. (They usually put Margaret out of the kitchen afterwards and take over the K. P. duties.) The lovely little Manse has been a second home to many of them.

It has been a joy to carry-on God's work surrounded by His beauties. Only the mountain tops are white now with the stately spruce and balsams making the valley a lovely shade of green. From our living room window we look out upon a glacier with the snow gradually shifting. The winter winds are forgotten during the past six weeks of sunshine. How our garden is progressing during these long summer days! On June 20th we are to have a community picnic at Mid-night for the sun will never set from our view that day.

As the mountains are round about Skagway so is the Lord round about His people. And as we are blessed by His sunshine let us pray: "Thou who hast given us so much, give us one thing more grateful hearts."

Sincerely,

*Margaret, Harold and
"The Fredsells." X Margaret Ann*

JUL 2 1945



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church,
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor- Chaplain.

June 18, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska.
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I have before me your splendid letters of June 1st and the 8th. Enclosed you will also find my report for the month of June. With the soldiers and the civilian construction workers going out every week our attendance is down as compared to six months ago. Our Sunday School is doing very well however, running ten to fifteen beyond the attendance of a year ago.

Our new Church House is now on our property immediately to the rear of the sanctuary. We purchased the additional lot from the city. The building will be a great asset to our Church and Community program. With the closing of the Skagway USO a large proportion of their equipment was moved to our new building. The remaining soldiers as well as the townspeople will be able to play ping-pong, badminton and shuffle-board. The new center is much larger than our church building.

This building was erected by The Elliott Construction Co as a recreation hall for their civilian employees. It was built at a cost of \$ 60,000. 00. Built at a time when labor and materials were high it is probably worth \$ 30,000. 00. By cutting a good deal of red-tape we will in all possibility get the building for nothing, other than the cost of moving it and adapting it to our needs. With the use of army caterpillars and a construction gang from the U. P. & Y. R.R. we have moved the building to our lot at an estimated cost of \$ 1,000. 00. The Skagway people have raised \$ 1,200. 00 and that will take care of the expenses to date. We are anxious to put some kind of a foundation around it before cold weather sets in and connect it with our present building. The two wash-rooms will have to be re-arranged for our needs and we are planning to build a kitchen in the rear of the structure. In adapting the building to our needs the \$ 500. 00 from the Board would be of tremendous help.

Our work with the service men continues to be an important part of our program. Although a good many of our boys are being shifted to Whitehorse and Edmonton, soldiers are now being sent in to take the places of Standard Oil Company employees attending the pipeline from Skagway on up to the Canol project. A certain number of G. I's are being kept on the railroad who will spend their week-ends in Skagway. The \$ 25. 00 a month being received from the Committee on Camp and Church Activities helps a good deal. Mrs. Fredsell and myself commented the other night that for the past nine months we have had from two to six soldiers for Sunday dinner each week. Different boys drop in three or four nights a week to visit and usually have coffee and cake with us. From the standpoint of our sugar consumption it is fortunate that Alaska is not rationed. I recently received the \$ 25. 00 check from Camp and Church for the month of June and I assume that July's will be on its way. My suggestion regarding the \$ 50. 00 sent by your office is that it be applied for the months of January and February which was before Camp and Church started the Skagway appropriation and there was nothing to cover the expenditures for that period. The initial grant from the Clear Lake Michigan Summer Conference took us through the end of December and I sent you a report covering the expenditures. This would clear up the matter and take care of the expenses involved.

We are looking forward to holding our Vacation Church School during the early part of July with the hopes that our new building will be ready for use at that time. I have ordered supplies from the San Francisco book store. Three weeks ago a young couple from The Christian Missionary Alliance in Whitehorse came to me and offered to run a Vacation Bible School for me. I thanked them but told them I was planning to run my school in July, thinking that would be the end of the matter. To my surprise they approached the Pentecostal Mission here in town who of course jumped at the offer. The Mission has given us little concern because it only involves the husband and wife who run it, their girl and a few of the townspeople. However, this vacation Bible School had about twenty children in it, nineteen of them are members of the Presbyterian Sunday-School. We now have to offset some of their narrow teachings and questionable procedures. I have learned my lesson if you give some of these fellows an inch they take a foot.

I wrote a full letter to Rolland Armstrong giving him Jess Wallace's name and seven others who have left Skagway for Anchorage. It is unfortunate we are losing some of our finest families who are dissatisfied with the W. P. & Y. R. R. Mr. Rasmuson has been in Montana for the past month on business. You will be pleased to know that Mr. Johnston gave me a \$ 25. 00 a month bonus to offset the high cost of living during these war days. It will help although we would still be interested in purchasing some canned goods especially milk through the group purchasing power of the Board.

We appreciate your confidence in our ability and was pleased to know that you gave your permission to the Sitka folks to approach us with a view toward taking up that work in September. We thanked Leslie Yaw and Rolland Murster but told them it would be unfair to the Skagway folks at the present time. After the long period of army leadership here in Skagway our task is to again enlist the local folks to carry forward the work of the church. We are gradually replacing the soldiers in the Sunday School and church with community civilian leaders. Our work has been challenging and we hope we have been useful in building God's Kingdom. We volunteered for War-Time Service work and in all probability when our task is completed in Skagway we will return to the States.

Thank you again for your usual fine cooperation and support. Your letters always cheer our hearts and make us want to do more for Christ and His Church. I am enclosing a "Mission Letter" we recently sent to the folks in Jamaica, Northville and interested Presbyterians.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell

JUL 23 1945



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor - Chaplain.

July 15, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed is my report for the month of June. In spite of victory gardening and boats arriving on Sundays our attendance has not dropped off for the summer months. With the Sunday boats it means that the entire town has to work and we get very few tourists these days. Most of the vacationers go direct on the train to Lake Denet and the Yukon River trip. Last week however we had a minister and his wife from the United Church of Canada a Rev. A. B. Irwin from Exeter. We had them for Sunday dinner and he spoke at the evening service for us.

We have a new group of soldiers coming in to take the place of the Standard Oil people on the Canol Pipe Line and the Skagway Tank Farm. They feel they will be somewhat permanent and they are having their wives travel to Skagway. We are busy finding places for them to live and we usually have the newly arrived wife and her soldier boy husband for Sunday dinner. I visit the soldiers at the Tank Farm on the same day I go out to see the patients at the Native Affairs Hospital. I sent my June report to Dr. Getty of Camp and Church Activities and although I did not receive my July check to date it will probably be along soon.

Our Sunday School is going along very well. We are busy calling on new comers and getting their youngsters into the church work. I have ordered our supplies and we will probably have our Vacation Church School in August. We hope to be able to use the auditorium part of our new building.

We now have a returned service man working on the new Church Community Center. It cost us a little over a \$1000.00 to move the building and the balance of the \$1200.00 we raised is rapidly going for repairs and the foundation. We hope to install a kitchen and badly needed lavatories. The \$500.00 from the Board will be put to work as soon as we receive it.

Sincerely, Harold F. Fredsell

AUG 27 1945



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

August 18, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed is the statistical report for the month of July. We are enjoying a new and interesting phase of work, namely interpreting the program of the Presbyterian Church in Alaska to the many tourists who are now beginning to visit Skagway. You will notice from the bulletin and the Skagway "paper" that over forty were in attendance at the Sunday Evening Service and most of whom stayed for the films and fellowship hour. I have one of the Church School boys at the gangplank Sunday mornings at 8:00 a. m. when the boat docks and he passes out copies of the Church Bulletin.

My colored views of Alaska are proving to be of considerable interest. I got the thought of giving a little lecture from the Anglican Rector in Whitehorse. The Church there owns some old black and white slides on the Yukon and each of the ministers have given this lecture on Sunday evenings and Wednesdays depending upon when the river boat is in. This is a very effective method of bringing the Church to the attention of the tourists. My little talk is based on the work of Haines House, views from the Presbyterian meeting at Hydaburg, a number of pictures of the summer conference at Sheldon Jackson as well as sights in and around Skagway.

Talking about Kodachrome pictures I am sending you under separate cover 11 slides which are reproductions of McClure's paintings on the Northwest Coast Indians. These are duplicates from the Axel Rasmussen collection. The cost is very little, just send me a roll or two of Bantam # K828. You mentioned that Mr. Thorne had some connections where the 2"x2" pictures could be made up commercially. I have a wonderful collection of old Skagway pictures from the gold rush days of '98. These could be made up on the Kodachrome slides for the above lecture that I am interested in making available for the Skagway Church. They would be of tremendous interest and the church program could be presented at the same time. Perhaps we could have three sets made up, one for the Skagway Church and one for each of us. They are black and white but they could be tinted before the slides were made up. Let me know concerning this and I will send the pictures to the N. Y. office.

Thank you for the usual interesting letter that follows my monthly report. It is the best compensation I know for getting your report in on time. The \$ 500. 00 check for our new building was appreciated. Most of the money will go toward buying white asbestos fire-proof shingles to cover the building and make it look similar to the church. At present it is covered with black tar-paper. We have a returned ex-service man doing the carpenter work on revamping the building to our needs. It will give us additional Sunday School rooms, a boy-scout and girl-scout room, lavatories and a fine big kitchen.

I have not heard from Camp and Church as to the July or August checks although my reports have gone in. With grateful hearts we led our people in a service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday evening August 14th. A fine group of soldiers were present with one of the officers taking part in the service. How long they will remain here is difficult to say. A new group of service men have replaced the Standard Oil employees on the Canol Pipeline project.

Although we have lost some fine people to Anchorage, our new comers are taking hold in church very well. For the first time since I have been here, we have six teachers in the older section of the Sunday School. Five of them are new residents, Mrs. Rasmusen being the only old timer. The Sunday School work is gratifying, even with the construction workers and their families now out of the community, we are doubling our attendance of a year ago.

The towns-people are still very lax when it comes to getting out to church. Friendly and cooperative, they love the church but old habits are hard to break. I am planning during the month of September to visit every family with a protestant background asking them to be present at the World-Wide Communion Observance. Could you be kind enough to send me immediately from the N. Y. office of Arthur Limouse, 200 copies of each of the materials available for World-Wide Communion. I will have Mr. Johnston send you a check immediately upon receipt for the cost involved. If I wait for San Francisco to send me an order blank and they in turn wait for receipt of it, too much time is lost.

We never have a dull moment. Miss Haggart and a friend of hers from Sheldon Jackson were with us for two days, last night we had Jean Williams for dinner and a delightful visit, today at 8:30 a. m. the four Fox's arrived. It will be splendid to have a man at Haines and these folks will probably fit right into the picture. Miss Jean Williams will be a welcomed member of the staff at the Skagway Sanatorium, where incidentally most of the patients are Presbyterians. I have a funeral there tomorrow of one of our girls. You, evidently feel as I do, however that Miss Jean Williams is too valuable to lose from our Board.

This letter some-what rambles all over the place, but perhaps it gives you a picture and conveys the spirit of our work. We trust you are having a little rest this summer and we always enjoy hearing from you.

Cordially,

Harold
Harold F. Fredsell

SEP 20 1945



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor - Chaplain.

September 15, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed is my report to cover activities for the month of August. Our attendance has held up fairly well considering that the towns people have to work on Sundays with a boat at dock each week and the tourists are taken direct to Lake Bennet. We have been having quite a few tourists at the evening service however, due largely to our plan of presenting them with a church bulletin when they get off the boat, 8:00 a. m. Sunday morning. We have had some interesting and complimentary comments concerning this procedure.

Our Romans Church Auxiliary recently served the Congressional Party touring Alaska to a splendid luncheon when they were here in Skagway. Gov. Gruening, Congressman Paul Cunningham of Iowa and Representative Ferguson of Georgia all visited the church and seemed impressed with our program. Mr. Cunningham is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, Iowa.

Pastoral calling at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Skagway seems increasingly important. Even if the Roman Catholic sisters do not attempt to proselytize it is natural that our Presbyterian young people welcome their attention and favor. I was there on two afternoons of this week but transportation is difficult and irregular. The taxi fare is \$1.00 each way and that is too expensive as a regular thing. Recently I had a funeral at the Sanatorium and the service was held in the corridor, the Chapel is reserved solely for the Roman Catholic sisters. When I go to Juneau next week to hear E. Stanley Jones I am going to the Department of Indian Affairs to come to some understanding concerning the Sanatorium. The Chapel has been built with U. S. government funds therefore it must be available to all groups or else they must build a separate one. I have already made an appointment to see

Mr. Don Foster, head of the Dep't of Indian Affairs regarding the Chapel, religious services and also that they provide some transportation so that the employees like Jean Williams can get into Church on Sundays. I will let you know the outcome of my conference.

We are making splendid progress on our Church Community Center. The plumbing work is all completed which will run in the neighborhood of \$ 400.00. Our carpenter has another two weeks work and then some painting will have to be done. White asbestos shingles, (like on the Manse) and imitation brick siding for the lower part has been ordered. We will spend between two and three thousand dollars on the building, but it will be worth about \$ 30, 000. 00. The formal dedication will probably be held on October 20th, when our Romans Auxiliary is to hold a Church Supper and Fall Festival. Funds will be forth coming and as far as possible we are not going to touch our present balance which we hope to use on improving the Church as such.

The little Manse looks resplendent with a coat of paint inside and out. Our hardwood floors have been sanded and varnished and new wall paper is on hand to decorate the rooms for the first time. The washing machine has been repaired as well as some of the furniture that the soldiers had given hard usage. We have been paying these bills from the regular church funds and will send the paid vouchers and bills to you soon for reimbursement from the \$ 300. 00 allocated to that use from the Camp and Church activities.

We had a recent visit from Chaplain C. E. Davison, our Presbyterian Coast Guard Captain from Ketchikan. He arrived in time for the evening service and seemed pleased and surprised. The "open house" fellowship at the Manse following the service impressed him very much. He is making a routine visit of all the Coast Guard Stations in Alaska. We now have a number of soldiers in town each week-end from Whitehorse and Fairbanks who are receiving these "Alaskan furloughs" of ten days. Our plan is to make our Church House available for recreational and sanitary facilities. Thank you for the \$ 25. 00 check marked for September to cover War-Time Service activities. The checks to cover July and August will probably come direct from Camp and Church as they did previously.

I have hesitated to send the old pictures of Skagway and the trip to the Klondike until I heard from you. If these could be made up into 2"x2" Kodachrome slides they would be very interesting and helpful to our work here. I am enclosing five slides of Skagway and Whitehorse that I think you will like to add to your collection. If you have any spare pictures ~~XXXX~~ of Point Barrow I would certainly like to exchange these for them. On further thought I am sending you three views of the "LeConte" Icebergs which were taken in March. The eight views will be placed in a little Kodachrome box rather than send them in this envelope.

Our very best regards to you and your staff.

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

OCT 2 1945



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor - Chaplain.

September 24, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

It is with considerable feeling and mixed emotions that I tender my resignation of the Skagway Church, effective within six months of the present date. On the whole it has been a challenging field, an area of real need, and our ministry although not all that it should have been, it has born some fruit. We have received more than we have given and we leave a host of fine friends. Briefly, there are two reasons. In our limited vision we have completed the immediate task as we see it. Secondly we are faced with the more personal reasons of health and finances.

Originally, we volunteered for work under the War-Time Service Commission. Dr. Herman Nelson Morse referred me to Mr. Roberts and he in turn introduced me to the Secretary of the Unit of Work in Alaska. Skagway appealed to us because we were able to minister to the Service Men and at the same time effect the transition back of that church from army to civilian leadership. This particular task is about completed. A splendid group of officers in the Church and teachers in the Sunday School are now carrying forward the program. The marked indifference of the townspeople from when we first arrived has given way to cooperation and support. We have helped to break down the barriers of antagonism and criticism of the Church indirectly due to my predecessor, and we have built up considerable good will toward the church. The introduction of a budget and offering envelopes will further increase the effectiveness of the Skagway Church. Our efforts in securing and financing the new Church Community Center will further make the church the focal point of town activities.

September 24, 1945.

In the realm of more personal reasons I am very concerned about the health of Mrs. Fredsell, our little daughter and myself. Mrs. Fredsell and myself are now having trouble with our teeth due to the lack of calcium and sunshine. Our little girl has not had fresh milk for almost a year and any fresh fruit is very costly and difficult to get. Recently, I was X-rayed at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium and although it was negative, I was cautioned due to the fact that in the past year I have lost twenty pounds.

As to our finances we are constantly losing ground. The Board and the local Church has more than done their share but the fact remains that the very high cost of living makes it impossible to continue in Skagway under the present arrangement. Perhaps with the war being over it will alter the picture somewhat but food, light and heat will change little in cost. We have done considerable entertaining particularly of service men, Chaplains and transients but we felt it was in keeping with the War-Time Service program. It is little enough to ask any man to serve in the mission program of the church and we have given this period of time to the work that needs to be done. We will not ask any aid of the Board in getting back to the States, we will in all probability sell our personal property to help make the move possible.

With the returning Chaplains you will have little trouble in finding a suitable man for this interesting field of work. A year ago it was a different story and the fact that the Skagway Church had been vacant a year was one of the factors which prompted us to undertake the work. We will in all probability return to our church in the Detroit area. There need is greater than Skagway at present. The Director of Religious Education is leaving in October and the present Pastor would like to be relieved as soon as possible. With almost one hundred men returning to that church from the armed forces it would be helpful and important that I be on hand. It is our hope that the Northville Church will continue to contribute at least \$ 500. 00 a year to the Unit of Work in Alaska.

It would be splendid if a new man could be brought here while we are still on the field. We would appreciate leaving just as soon as possible but we will serve the six months as recommended in the recent statement.

You have probably been away from the office and busy with the usual fall activities. We have anxiously looked for a letter following receipt of our August and September reports. With World-Wide Communion to be held on October 7th we regret exceedingly that we have not received any supplies at this late date. Let me know if you are interested in the old Skagway Gold-rush pictures that I have on hand.

We will always treasure the splendid relationships we have known these past months.

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell

Harold F. Fredsell

*11/14/45
Mr. J. Earl Jackman
Detroit, Mich.
11/14/45*

OCT 19 1945



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Reverend Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor

October 15, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed is my report for the month of September. Thank you for your kind note of October 2nd, the helpful "October Alaska News Letter" and the usual efficient acknowledgment⁶⁴ of my communications, from Miss Frieda Koerner. (If I ever get to be an Executive of your caliber I hope to have a capable Secretary such as you have.)

Please assure Miss. Koerner that the World-Wide Communion materials arrived in the nick of time. Her splendid cooperation made it possible for a number of patients as well as the Skagway congregation to enjoy a more orderly Communion Service. The materials arrived on Thursday and by hustling around we got out a Pastoral letter as well as mimeographing the Sunday bulletin. Fifty three partook of the elements at the Sunday morning service and in the afternoon we served thirty patients at the Dep't of Indian Affairs Tuberculosis Sanatorium along with two patients at The White Pass and Yukon Hospital. Inclosed is our draft for \$ 25. 00 to the Restoration Fund of the War-Time Service Commission. This was a special offering taken at the Communion Service. Would you kindly pass that on to the office of Dr. Harold A. Dalzell.

My report does not show a contribution as such for the Board of National Missions but we are undertaking an educational program along that line. In past years the Skagway Church has contributed \$ 25. 00 as such to the Benevolence quota of Presbytery. This year we included an item of \$ 200. 00 for benevolences on the basis of the weekly envelopes. They will soon be totaled and the report presented at our officers meeting the later part of the month. I remember from the meeting of Presbytery that the Skagway Church was given a quota of \$ 250.00. It would be very helpful to me to have a copy of all the quotas assigned the

Churches of Presbytery if your office has that record. Kindly send this to me as soon as possible. Our offering envelopes will not total that much because we have just used them for this one year, but I am in hopes that the balance can be taken from the regular funds for local expenses.

We are making splendid progress on our Church Community Center. Every night this week we have had a "work bee" which calls for a lot of organization but we are seeing results. The remaining soldiers have been very good about donating their time and it is a wholesome activity in these days when there might be a "let down" with the war being over. In spite of labor being donated our expenses are running high such as the following; plumbing installation and connection with sewer about \$ 1100. 00; the moving of the building \$ 1,000. 00; carpenters work for revamping it to our needs \$ 300. 00 and the new shingles for the exterior \$ 800. 00. However, our people are working hard and it is a good project. The Romans Church Auxiliary is sponsoring a Church Festival and Bazaar on Saturday October 20th. Mrs. Fredsell is heading up the committee to put on a Church Supper that night, the first they have had as such (aside from pot-luck's) and with it all they hope to raise quite a sum. It will be a splendid building for Sunday School programs and we are beginning to work on our Christmas activities. The Sunday School is larger than it has been in some time and with additional class room space we will improve our religious educational program.

With our names listed this month in the Year Book of Prayer it is our sincere desire to be worthy of our calling. Being the only minister in the community it was impossible for me to attend the Christian Worker's Conference. Another of our native boys has just died from Tuberculosis in the Army Hospital at Anchorage and I am awaiting his body for burial from the Church.

Your paragraph under "New York" in the Alaska News Letter speaks to my heart. We will remember in our prayers these good friends Miss Stauffer at Kasaan and Cyrus Beck at Klukwan. However, with the Methodists taking over the Hospital at Seward and now building a new Church at Douglas it behooves us to press on in our white work as well. You are doing more than your share in recruiting workers such as the Fox's and now Mr. Gall for Hydraburg, but perhaps after I get back to the states I can help with the financial load. Considering the pioneer work that our Church has done in Alaska we cannot afford to loose our lead. Leslie Yaw has just written to me again concerning the Sitka pulpit and the funds needed for the new administration building but here again I feel I can be more help to him speaking to the city churches.

Knowing your generous spirit I do not hesitate to remind you again of a suggestion I made earlier. With our leaving the Skagway Church and I hope you might want to locate your Field Representative for Alaska at Skagway. He would be available to both Presbyteries especially now with bus service from Whitehorse north and south. With the lay leadership we now have in the Church and Sunday School he could give considerable time to field work and coordinate the larger program of the Presbyterian Church in Alaska. A summer student at Skagway under a Field Representative could handle the large tourist congregations. This is one more item on your already crowded agenda.

Thank you again for all your many courtesies and the real joy of working under a Christian Stateman.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor - Chaplain

October 15, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

It would probably be helpful to your office to have a financial report on the appropriations of \$ 25. 00 a month to cover our War-Time Service work. I did not realize that your office handled the financing and I therefore in my reports to Dr. Getty mentioned the monetary arrangements. There is no serious problem and I hope I did not embarrass your splendid staff.

From my understanding the appropriation of \$ 25. 00 a month covers the period from January 1st, 1945 when the original contribution from the Clear Lake Summer Conference Offering was expended. Over this ten month period we have received \$ 225. 00 from The Committee On Camp and Church Activities as well as your office. This is certainly close enough to what we expected and we appreciate the assistance. The only confusion that there might be is the fact that the months recorded on the checks were incorrect and perhaps a detailed accounting would be helpful. From my records I have arrived at the following figures:

Check for \$	75. 00	marked for months of	Mar., April, May-	from Philadelphia
" "	50. 00	" "	" "	Mar., & April - " New York
" "	25. 00	" "	" "	June " New York
" "	25. 00	" "	" "	Sept. " New York
" "	50. 00	" "	" "	May & October " New York

We are perfectly satisfied with the help we have been given and suggest we let the matter drop. With the soldiers gradually being moved out this phase of our work will close in the next few months, or in the spring at the latest. The Church has meant a lot to the soldiers and we are happy to have had this opportunity of ministering to them.

Sincerely, *H. F. Fredsell*
H. F. Fredsell

NOV 21 1945



THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor - Chaplain

November 16, 1945

Rev. Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed you will find my report for the month of October. The mimeographed letter covering our service to the "USS Hudson" is rather complete tells quite a story. Feel free to use it in any publicity work that you care to. My primary purpose in writing it is to elicit support for our work in Alaska from some of the larger churches of Detroit and New York. A copy of the letter from the Commander of the boat is also enclosed.

You will be grieved to know that at one o'clock in the morning on the fifteenth, the Roman Catholic Mission Pius X here at Skagway was destroyed by fire. Only the four brick walls remain a loss of about \$ 100 thousand. Here again our Church Community Center came to the rescue as I took all the children to our building by truck. At present they have been relocated at the Skagway Sanatorium which is three miles out of town. We are gathering clothing for them and assisting in other ways. From all reports they plan to purchase a building formerly used for a small hotel here in town and rebuild when they are able.

I have been visiting the patients at the Skagway Sanatorium about twice a week. Once usually going from bed to bed and then also showing my colored slides and barrowed Alaskan movies. Dr. Seeazey's department of Evangelism has been very helpful in providing the little pamphlet which I distribute each week. I am wondering if those scripture text Calendars could be made available. I realize they are quite costly but the R. C.'s will be giving them out and I would like to get them to our folks just as soon as possible. Bert Single had them for the highway last year and that is where I got the thought from. We need about fifty and perhaps the Skagway Church could share in the cost.

I am happy to send along our check for \$ 125. 00 which represents half of our costs toward benevolent giving. Your last letter to me mentioned some of the financial problems and I read it to our meeting of Elders and Trustees. They felt you might want to use this check toward the Unit of Work in Alaska. It has our designation if that is the procedure that should be followed.

It is my hopes that I could tell the Skagway folks that you have a successor for me and I have not therefore informed them of my resignation. Certainly the first of the year will be plenty time enough to present this to them. In a brief hurried trip to Wrangell a few weeks ago on business for the Axel Rasmussen Estate I was delighted to meet Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Webster. We are fortunate in having these fine Christian leaders taking up their work again in Alaska. They mentioned a man who is interested in coming to Alaska, he is a class mate of Mr. Webster's. He has been doing some work for the Synod of California his name is Dr. Hugh Jones. Formerly he was at the Westminster Church, San Jose, California for some ten years. It is just barely possible that if he has done administrative work for the Synod you might be able to use him in a dual capacity of Field Representative and Pastor of the Skagway Church. Perhaps you might want to contact him. I understand he was being considered for the Sitka Church and I do not know who they finally called.

Thank you for trying to locate some K828 film for me. I likewise had a letter from Dr. Thonne saying he could not send me any movie film which I would like to have very much. If you have any contacts in N. Y. C. I would appreciate a "packet" or two of Kodachrome movie film # No. 368. From all reports it is being released now but it will take some time to get to Alaska. I am anxious to take some pictures of my daughter opening her Christmas packages. You will be interested to know that I never took any pictures, slides or otherwise until I came to Alaska. However, surrounded by so much beauty it gets into your system and you join the many other camera fans.

We have been having some severe winter for so early in the season. Our temperature has been about zero with biting north winds. Frozen plumbing is the problem about town and we are busy keeping the Church Community Center thawed out. The Rasmuson's are leaving on tomorrow's boat for St. Paul and then to California. He had a slight stroke about a week ago but he has recovered very well. In fact he is planning to go to the Republican National Committee meeting in spite of Doctor's orders.

Our greetings to the staff, Mrs. Jackman and yourself.

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell.

P. S. Thank you for the \$ 50. 00 received from Camp and Church Activities, this clears up the financial arrangements of our work with the service men.

THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church
Skagway, Alaska.

NOV 21 1945

"And The Church Was There."

On October 24, 1945 the destroyer USS "Hudson" arrived at the port of Skagway, Alaska. The ship was met by the Mayor of the City, two officers of the Presbyterian Church and its Pastor. Aside from the four liquor bars the only public place opened to these men was the Church Community Center. Here the two hundred and fifty men were entertained and made welcome during their eight day stay. The Center was open every afternoon and evening with coffee and home-made cakes always available. Against the snow and the biting North wind the Church Center was a refuge.

More than that it was a spiritual haven. For the first time in eleven months these men attended worship. Both the morning and the evening services were crowded with men in blue. They were at Sunday School and a quartet sang at the morning service. Following the worship hour many went to the homes of the Church people for dinner.

The Church Community Center was made possible by the prayers and efforts of the local church with the help of the Presbyterian War-Time Service Fund. With the closing of the Skagway USO it became imperative that the remaining soldiers, visiting sailors and towns people have a gathering place with wholesome surroundings.

For three long years the Skagway Presbyterian Church had been the official Army Chapel for the North West Service Command. Ministering to the three thousand soldiers, two thousand construction workers and the towns people she faced the challenge as the only protestant influence. To countless numbers she brought hope, courage and joy.

Now with the coming of peace she faced the days of reconstruction alone. The USO and the Red Cross have gone on to larger fields of service, the Church remains to carry on. Realizing the task to be undertaken the "Port Recreation Hall" was purchased, moved adjacent to the church and became the social center. Twelve hundred dollars was raised by the local church, to that sum five hundred dollars was added by the ~~Board of National Missions~~ ^{Board of National Missions}, and a thirteen hundred dollar debt face a group of people who are unafraid of the future. A large portion of the labor needed to adapt the building to the needs of the Church was supplied by the remaining soldiers and the local people. Ministering to the men aboard the USS "Hudson" alone has more than repaid itself for the time and money spent.

Since 1898 the Skagway Presbyterian Church has bravely withstood the changes which confronted her. During all these years the Board of National Missions has continued its generous support. Other denominations closed their churches, the Presbyterians alone remained. How often the faithful Pastors and the Mission Board must have questioned the use of God's money and manpower.

But with the coming of the war "the church was there" to serve her sons. The active church program brought many a wandering boy to Christ and "oper house" at the Manse was the helpful reminder of home. Since 1898 this little frontier church has bravely struggled on to serve the new day because she was built, not of man but of God.

Word comes that the Board of National Missions cannot send to Alaska the sorely needed Field Representative. "If all the Mission Posts are filled this year our budget provision will be short some \$2,000.00." -- "Rise Up! O Men of God, for you the Church doth wait!"

Cordially,
Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor and,
Auxiliary Chaplain North West Command.

The Manse, Skagway, Alaska.
December 7, 1945.

Dear Friend:

"The winter! the brightness that blinds you,
The white land locked tight as a drum,
The cold fear that follows and finds you,
The silence that bludgeons you dumb.
The snows that are older than history,
The woods where the weird shadows slant;
The stillness, the moonlight, the mystery,
We've bade 'em good-by - but we can't.

Robert W. Service.

We agree with the Bard of the Northland that winter brings its joys and blessings. Recently we saw a colorful display of northern lights and now the everlasting hills are white with snow. Our zero weather came about the fifteenth of October and with an hour and twenty minutes of sunshine a day we well know that the winter is upon us.

Our work is vastly changed from a year ago. The streets are no longer crowded with soldiers and the civilians have again taken over their town. Instead of one train an hour we now have two a week. The Army will cancel the railroad contract in the Spring and the remaining soldiers will leave for the States. It is important that we minister to the remaining men but we join them in their desire to return home.

We all three now qualify as "sourdoughs"; the second winter holds little fear for us. Margaret Ann and her mother face the snow and the biting North wind in warm ski suits and Pop just about lives in his Alaskan seal fur hat. Our little Miss has been very well and after being a seasoned traveller on the mission boat she can tell you quite a story of Alaska. With soldiers, tourists and missionaries as our table guests, Margaret has done more entertaining in the past year, than was true of the six previous years. Life on the frontier is interesting and being a minister means helping out as school teacher, banker and legal administrator. One of our few problems is the lack of sunshine, fresh milk, fruit and vegetables. However, God grants to us certain blessings and all of life has its compensations. The meaning of Christmas is especially plain to us this year. For a long time we have been stumbling through the grim darkness of war. The rebirth of Christ's spirit sounds the good news, "the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." We pray that the "Light" will bring to you hope, peace and joy,

Please carry our as ever,
greetings to Mrs. "The Fredsells"
Jackman and the Margaret, Harold and Margaret Ann.
staff. We pray for you God's strength and blessings in the
year ahead.

Cordially,

Harold

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Skagway, Alaska.

Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

December 17, 1945

DEC 26 1945
Washedley

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska.
Board of National Missions,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The busy Christmas season is upon us, but I always enjoy getting my monthly report off to your office. It usually calls forth a good reply from you and that is worth the promptness. We did enjoy your lovely Christmas greeting and the fifty Scripture Text Calendars go to the patients at the Skagway Sanatorium as a Christmas gift from our Board of National Missions.

Enclosed is the monthly report, the figures speak for themselves. Our Youth Choirs under the direction of Mrs. Fredsell are making excellent progress. We plan to use all three choirs on Christmas Eve when an offering will be received for The Restoration Fund. Our Church Community Center is being used six days a week with youth activities. The Elks, Eagles and Woman's Club have pledged \$5.00 a month toward the cost of heat and light. At present it is being shingled and the finishing touches will then have it completed. Sunday we had a wonderful day of Christian fellowship. The folks from Haines and Klukwan came over in the afternoon and conducted the evening service. Visiting in the Church Community Center afterwards Paul Prouty reminded Kenneth Fox and myself what the picture was a year ago; Skagway was down with new leadership, Haines was limping along with some temporary leadership and Klukwan looked impossible. Now the scene had changed in one year, our three churches are coming along in fine style. Half the evening offering is enclosed a check for \$30.00 which is to go to the Board toward the rebuilding of the Klukwan house, the other half is to go to the Sheldon Jackson Junior College. I will send this latter check direct to Leslie Yaw. About 125 folks crowded the Skagway Church for this fine evening of Christian fellowship. The other check enclosed is our Thanksgiving offering toward the rural church.

I have hesitated to say anything to the Skagway folks about our going hoping we could say when a definite successor would arrive. The thought of the young fellow from McCormick would complicate things a little. We had hoped to leave the end of March and he could not possibly arrive before the end of May. Perhaps a released Chaplain applying to the Board for an assignment will yet appear. Bert Bingle has been invited by the Rasmussen's to come to Skagway for a visit some time, perhaps he could do some substituting along with Paul Prouty and thereby supply the Skagway Church. Your suggestion of a man from McCormick has merit in so far as he would probably have a liberal approach to people. One of the difficulties that Rotenberry experienced was that the Skagway people did not respond to his very conservative theology and the dogmatic methods. Let me hear from you concerning any more recent developments.

Our best of wishes to you and your staff in the year ahead.

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell

Harold F. Fredsell.

JAN 21 1946



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

January 15, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska.
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Thank you very kindly for your excellent Christmas gift to me of Dr. Blackwood's recent book. It is just what I wanted and fills a real need. I will greatly miss your warm personal letters and these lifts for the spirit that have meant so much to me.

Our Christmas Eve Service was a great joy. Margaret has been training a boys choir as well as a girls group along with the regular senior choir. All three choruses sang on Christmas Eve at the candle-light service. The year before the church was filled with soldiers, now the sanctuary was crowded with the townspeople who have again taken their place in the life of the church. Our offering for the Restoration Fund amounted to \$ 142. 78. I will send this direct to the Treasurer but I thought you might want it for your records. The Sunday School Christmas program was held in our new Church Community Center and we had ample room for a change. Our stage is a wonderful asset. Toward our work in China we are again staking five claims and I will send the \$ 50. 00 direct to the Foreign Board. Our building is rapidly being completed, the exterior shingling work will cost about \$ 500. 00. We are now making plans to have the Church redecorated for the Spring and we have funds for the project. Constantly our people are doing better and there are real signs of spiritual growth.

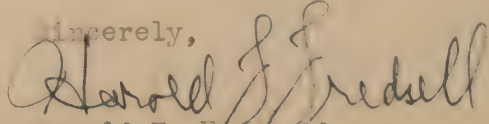
In my December report to Camp and Church Activities I told them of the decreasing work among the members of the armed forces as such. Each week our boys are being sent home and replacements will not be forthcoming. The Army plans to cancel their lease of the White Pass and Yukon Railway early in the Spring. I suggested that they might want to send our appropriation of \$25.00 a month to some other spot. We continue to have "Open House" each week for twenty to twenty-five after the evening service but very few of the congregation are soldiers as such. The largest group in the main evening are the nurses and staff of the new Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Our evening service is largely attended by those other than the townspeople and it is important. We are therefore using our Camp and Church funds for this purpose as well as the \$1.00 a week it costs me to go by bus out to the Sanatorium for a visit with all the patients. I have not asked the Skagway Church to stand the expenses connected with my work at the Sanatorium although our Sunday School now provides weekly Sunday School papers and quarterlies. However, you and the committee decide about the \$25.00 appropriation will be satisfactory to us.

Are you still thinking of the McCormick Seminary boy for Skagway? Our full program at the Church Community Center calls for a young man and in some ways he appears to be a fine choice. You tear at our heart strings when you mention the possibility of the field being vacant for a month or two. With the Pentecostals and the Episcopalians trying to organize work here, it would not be good leadership on our part. The Detroit folks are looking for us in April. We have not however, set an exact date for our return and it is possible that we could stay through Easter Sunday and leave on the 25th of April. If at all possible I hope you can have Paul Prouty on the field when we leave and have him there until the new man arrives. With Paul filling that month in between nothing would interrupt the church program. I assume that Presb.tery will meet the early part of April and the young people's conference comes late in May. Is it at all possible that Paul will be free following Easter Sunday? We have not said anything yet to the Skagway folks about our going, hoping to have definite word from you about our successor.

Mr. E. A. Rasmuson is slowly recovering from his recent stroke. At present he is in California, "The Oasis Hotel" at Palm Springs. During his illness I helped him at the Bank for a couple of weeks which set his mind at ease. He came before the Trustees and asked their permission that I break in a Cashier in the emergency. The issue at stake was ~~whether~~ whether Skagway would have a Bank or not and the Trustees felt I was rendering valuable community service. I just give some occasional oversight now and it does not interfere with my regular duties.

Miss. Blanche Horner our beloved nurse at Haines House was brought to the White Pass Hospital at Skagway today with a broken hip. I have just returned from seeing her and her only concern was the staff at Haines House who are short-handed at present. Her love for the boys and girls and devotion for her work is nothing short of Christlike. We can be justly proud of our fine workers in Alaska. With God's help and your direction I hope to make a continued contribution to its advancement among the churches in the States.

Our very best regards to your splendid staff.

Sincerely,

 Harold F. Fredsell

FEB 26 1946

Alaska City



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

February 18, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed is the statistical report for the month of January. The figures do not show entirely the fine spirit upon the part of our people as they are carrying forward the work of the Church and Community Center. Express my appreciation to the Board for the salary adjustment and I am certain that every man in Alaska feels your devoted leadership in trying to adequately care for the physical and spiritual needs of your men. The two packages of K828 film arrived and I am very happy to receive them.

We will prepare very shortly a complete list of all the furnishings at the Manse for the convenience of Mr. and Mrs. Dodge as well as to place a permanent record at your office. It is our plan as far as possible to leave most of the articles we brought with us and thereby leave the Manse better equipped than it was before.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Skagway officers on February 5th we announced our plans to leave Skagway. One reason we waited was to definitely get word from you that a successor had been picked. Our Officers were very gracious in expressing what progress has been made in the past year and a half and the feeling of solidarity that will greet the Dodge's on their arrival. On Sunday February 10th at a congregational meeting we likewise announced our plans to return to our former church at Northville. From the community at large there has been a fine response and not the adverse reaction that you felt would be the case. An old-timer remarked that the Skagway Church had lost ground for twenty years and it was now unified as had not been the case for many years. There is a tremendous amount of good will evidenced toward the church and the school board split of Knudsen's day, and the indifference so evident during the Rotenberry regime is now all but forgotten. With the new Church Community Center

all the activities of the entire town are held there. Last week for instance our folks had a town meeting to work toward the new 500 bed T. B. Sanatorium being located in Skagway, it was held not at the City Hall but at the Church Center. Our Woman's Church Auxiliary serve the noon-day luncheon for the Chamber of Commerce at the Center and thereby are helping to pay off our present small debt on the building. With very little effort the Skagway Church could move toward self-support if it appeared to be the wise thing to do at present. I predict a splendid response to our budget letter that goes out next month. Mr. L. H. Johnston of our Board of Trustees and Mr. E. A. Larson, Secretary of the Board will probably write to you very soon asking what they can do toward the settling of the Dodges. We have a splendid group of Trustees now functioning which was certainly not the case in October of 1944. The Board at present is carrying forward a redecorating program in the church proper that will cost about \$1,500.00. Further plans are for a new carpet and pews to replace the individual theatre type seats.

Your usual wise leadership was evidenced in the recent letter I received from Mr. E. A. Rasmuson who is at "The Oasis", Palm Springs, California saying he heard from you and that you wished him a speedy recovery. Mr. Rasmuson has many fine qualities and the Church at large needs his good will. I wrote to him about our going after I had presented it to the Board. Margaret and myself are both fond of him, and I think that he in turn thinks a good deal of us. Just what his reaction will be it is difficult to say. Before he left in September I told him that it was just a matter of months before we would have to go back to Detroit, he somewhat took it for granted. Knowing him as I do he will probably buck at the suggestion of the Skagway Church paying anything toward the settling of the Dodges, but in the end he will acquiesce. Here is a typical illustration. Our present Chairman of the Board of Trustees a splendid young man named Philip L. Olsen accompanied me out on one of my regular weekly visits to the T. B. Sanatorium.

When I was about to pay the usual taxi fare of \$1.00 he protested that it should not come from me personally. At the August meeting he brought it up that the church should pay this weekly item of expense. Both Mr. Rasmuson and Mr. Johnston felt the church could not afford in terms of \$52.00 a year. I stated that I was taking it from my War-Time Service allowance and for the time being we could drop the matter. The next day Mr. Rasmuson gave me his personal check for \$100.00 for work at the T. B. Sanatorium, hence I have been able to get the Christmas Story in Kodachrome slides, now the Easter Story is ordered which costs \$22.30 as well as providing the patients with a good deal of personal reading matter. He opposed the Board paying out a dollar a week, but he personally gave the \$100.00.

The Northville folks are having a difficult time of it and are looking for us in April. When I wrote to you in September I thought we might be able to get away in March. It is just barely possible that Dr. Stocker at the Washington Synodical office will know of a man who could be ad-interim Pastor during April and May. When I sent the Restoration Fund offering of \$142.78 to him I asked him concerning this possibility. To date I have not heard from him. If nothing comes of this and it is agreeable with the Northville Church we will endeavor to stay through Easter Sunday April 21st and I will supply the Skagway pulpit with sermons through the month of May. For pulpit supplies, I will ask an army chaplain from Hitchhiker, and Messers Beck, Pronty, Fox and Booth for one Sunday each in that order. If we can stay through April that is going half way with the Board and Mr. Dodge. From my own experience, Mr Dodge could be ordained previous to his graduation and thereby save considerable time. If you requested the National Missions Committee of the the Chicago Presbytery to do so, I am quite sure it could be arranged. I was ordained in December previous to my graduation by the Presbytery of Brooklyn-Aspen. Perhaps this suggestion could be helpful and save some time.

Our trustees desire to take out a 2,000.00 additional insurance on the new Church Community Center with the Board, kindly send the necessary blank

Greetings to the staff and may God continue to bless your work abundantly,

Cordially, *Harold S. Sredsell*

(Carbon copy sent to the New York Office.)



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

March 18, 1946

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed you will find the statistical report for the month of February of the Skagway Church. Services are well attended, the various organizations are strengthened and the work continues to go forward. You will likewise find enclosed our check for \$ 125. 00 to cover the balance on our benevolence quota. Please pass this on immediately to the Central Receiving Agency so that our church is duly credited for the year 1945-46.

A copy of the inventory of the Skagway Manse is enclosed as requested in your last letter of January 18th. We have hesitated about leaving some of our personal articles due to the shortage in the States, but after considering their need at the Skagway Manse and the expensive freight rate involved we have finally decided to part with them.

I had hoped to receive an answer from you based on my letter of February 18th. From "The Church Times" I have read of your travels to interpret the work in Alaska to the various Synods and Presbyteries. You cannot be expected to answer every letter from the territory and carry forward your important work in the States. It is another example of our need of a resident Field Representative for Alaska.

There has been considerable concern on the part of both the Skagway Church and the Northville Church as to their pastoral leadership. Not hearing anything definite from you, I in turn have not been able to state clearly when I will be free to leave. In September I wrote to you resigning from the Skagway Church as of the end of March. With more than six months notice, theoretically I am relieved of my responsibilities as of that date. In so far as you

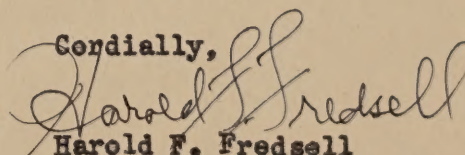
engaged the Rev. Mr. John^D Dodge to start his work at Skagway the early part of June, I feel it was your responsibility to arrange for an ad-interim pastor during the months of April and May. The work at both churches has been upon my heart and mind very much and I am trying conscientiously to do what is best for each of them.

After eliminating a number of suggestions I am now awaiting word as to the possibility of the Rev. Mr. George Beck of Ketchikan to supply the Skagway Church during the months of April and May. Both Mrs. Fredsell and myself have been asked to assist at the meeting of Presbytery and Presbyterial but with the difficulty of a pulpit supply involved we have not been able to give definite word as to whether we can be present. Had I known you were going to be in California and Washington I would certainly have asked you to find a good man who would enjoy spending two months at the Skagway Church. Our folks feel they can take care of traveling expenses, the use of the Manse and \$ 100. 00 a month.

The Skagway folks are grand and very considerate. You have probably received a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Mr. E. A. Larson asking what they can do to assist in the settling of the new man. They are hoping to pay our April salary in lieu of the ~~fact~~ fact that we had no vacation last year. If at all possible they ~~want~~ want us to get some sorely needed sunshine before we face our busy task at the Northville Church. During the past year I have lost thirty-five pounds and Margaret and our little girl show their lack of fresh vegetables and milk. If Mr. Beck can supply the Skagway Church it will allow us a little more time driving across country and the Northville folks will feel better. We are faced with the challenge of raising between seven and eight thousand dollars for the Restoration Fund at the Northville Church.

If all goes well we hope to be at Presbytery and continue to go South to Seattle if a man is at Skagway. We will have to watch our finances and to return to Skagway for a week or two after Presbytery will cost us about one hundred dollars. A good visit with you at Presbytery will be good for my soul. Perhaps you have some special task you would like me to do at Presbytery or at # 156 Fifth Avenue. If possible I am to give a report at Union Seminary during commencement week as Secretary-Treasurer of the class of '41. This year will mark the first five year reunion of our seminary class.

Our very best regards, we hope to see you at Presbytery.

Cordially,

 Harold F. Fredsell



APR 1 1946

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway, Alaska.
Rev. Harold F. Fredsell, Pastor.

March 18, 1946

Rev. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Enclosed you will find the statistical report for the month of February of the Skagway Church. Services are well attended, the various organizations are strengthened and the work continues to go forward. You will likewise find enclosed our check for \$ 125. 00 to cover the balance on our benevolence quota. Please pass this on immediately to the Central Receiving Agency so that our church is duly credited for the year 1945-46.

cc sent Mr. Dodge 4/1/46
A copy of the inventory of the Skagway Manse is enclosed as requested in your last letter of January 18th. We have hesitated about leaving some of our personal articles due to the shortage in the States, but after considering their need at the Skagway Manse and the expensive freight rate involved we have finally decided to part with them.

hope
OK
now
I had hoped to receive an answer from you based on my letter of February 18th. From "The Church Times" I have read of your travels to interpret the work in Alaska to the various Synods and Presbyteries. You cannot be expected to answer every letter from the territory and carry forward your important work in the States. It is another example of our need of a resident Field Representative for Alaska.

Mr
Skagway
(over)
There has been considerable concern on the part of both the Skagway Church and the Northville Church as to their pastoral leadership. Not hearing anything definite from you, I in turn have not been able to state clearly when I will be free to leave. In September I wrote to you resigning from the Skagway Church as of the end of March. With more than six months notice, theoretically I am relieved of my responsibilities as of that date. In so far as you

engaged the Rev. Mr. John Dodge to start his work at Skagway the early part of June, I feel it was your responsibility to arrange for an ad-interim pastor during the months of April and May. The work at both churches has been upon my heart and mind very much and I am trying conscientiously to do what is best for each of them.

After eliminating a number of suggestions I am now awaiting word as to the possibility of the Rev. Mr. George Beck of Ketchikan to supply the Skagway Church during the months of April and May. Both Mrs. Fredsell and myself have been asked to assist at the meeting of Presbytery and Presbyterial but with the difficulty of a pulpit supply involved we have not been able to give definite word as to whether we can be present. Had I known you were going to be in California and Washington I would certainly have asked you to find a good man who would enjoy spending two months at the Skagway Church. Our folks feel they can take care of traveling expenses, the use of the Manse and \$ 100. 00 a month.

The Skagway folks are grand and very considerate. You have probably received a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Mr. E. A. Larson asking what they can do to assist in the settling of the new man. They are hoping to pay our April salary in lieu of the ~~sunk~~ fact that we had no vacation last year. If at all possible they ~~want~~ want us to get some sorely needed sunshine before we face our busy task at the Northville Church. During the past year I have lost thirty-five pounds and Margaret and our little girl show their lack of fresh vegetables and milk. If Mr. Beck can supply the Skagway Church it will allow us a little more time driving across country and the Northville folks will feel better. We are faced with the challenge of raising between seven and eight thousand dollars for the Restoration Fund at the Northville Church.

If all goes well we hope to be at Presbytery and continue to go South to Seattle if a man is at Skagway. We will have to watch our finances and to return to Skagway for a week or two after Presbytery will cost us about one hundred dollars. A good visit with you at Presbytery will be good for my soul. Perhaps you have some special task you would like me to do at Presbytery or at # 156 Fifth Avenue. If possible I am to give a report at Union Seminary during commencement week as Secretary-Treasurer of the class of '41. This year will mark the first five year reunion of our seminary class.

Our very best regards, we hope to see you at Presbytery.

Cordially,

Harold F. Fredsell
Harold F. Fredsell